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Management contracts may be called into question

Hilton owners blacklisted by boycott office

By Jadranka Porter

THE management contracts between Arab-owned hotels and the Hilton International owned by the British Ladbroke Group PLC are likely to be called into question after the British company was put on the Arab Boycott of Israel blacklist last week, the Israel boycott office in Kuwait said yesterday.

Kuwait's Director of Customs Ibrahim Al Ghanim, who is in charge of the Israel boycott office, said if the relationship is established it will have serious repercussions for the Hilton's management contracts in the Arab world.

The Israel boycott office in Kuwait was unaware of the link between the Ladbroke Group, which has business interests in Israel, and the Hilton International.

Unaware

The managers at the four Hilton hotels in the Gulf contacted by the Arab Times yesterday appeared unaware of the fact that their own company had been blacklisted.

The British office of the Ladbroke Group's area sales and

marketing director Clive Ostler, who is in charge of the group's hotels in Africa, Egypt and the Gulf, confirmed the firm's ownership of the Hilton International.

Neither Ostler who is reportedly on a business trip in Africa nor any other company official at the firm's headquarters in Watford, England, was available for comment.

Al Ghanim who attended the 60th meeting of the Arab Boycott of Israel Committee last week in Damascus, Syria, confirmed that the Ladbroke Group was added to the blacklist but was unaware of the firm's ownership of the Hilton International.

The issue was apparently not raised at the meeting in Damascus.

Inquiries

"We shall make our own inquiries and study the situation. If the link is established the Arab-owned hotels will be given ample time to make alternative arrangements," said Al Ghanim.

Mustafa Aboul Aineh, the sales manager of the Hilton Hotel at Fujairah told the Arab Times in a telephone interview that the hotel had not been notified of the issue by the head office.

The spokesman for Bahrain Hilton declined to comment, as did the sales manager at Abu Dhabi Hilton.

The Kuwait Hotels Company, which used to own the Kuwait Hilton ended its management contract with the Hilton International in early January. The hotel, at present operating under the name of the Kuwait International Hotel, is now owned by the Kuwait Investment Authority and is managed by the Kuwait Hotels Company.

prevent multinational corporations who do business with Israel from doing business in the Arab world.

Some 11,000 mostly Western firms are blacklisted in Arab countries. Al Ghanim said that in fact the number is much smaller because the list includes the companies and their subsidiaries. Among the banned firms is the American Gulf and Western company and its 1,000 subsidiaries and the British BTR company which has 974 subsidiaries, Al Ghanim said.

Last year Kuwait and many other Arab states lifted the ban on the US Coca Cola company after it had been on the blacklist for 22 years.

Significant

"The Coca Cola company has only given a licence to Israel so that they can use the name but does not actually have a factory there. We don't find this significant," said Al Ghanim.

Similarly the Ford Motor Co. was dropped from the list in 1986 after a 20-year-long ban.

Al Ghanim claimed that the boycott of companies doing business with Israel has been effective. He cited examples of numerous firms which claim to have stopped doing business with Israel and wish to be taken off the blacklist. This can be done only under condition that firms in question execute in an Arab country a project identical in size and value with the one it carried out in Israel, said Al Ghanim.

This has been the case with the American Baxter Travenol Laboratories Inc., which was dropped from the blacklist last week. The firm which was blacklisted for building a chemical plant in Israel, is now committed

(Continued on Page 2)



Shultz dances with an Australian actress, Dagmar Koller, at a reception to mark the end of European security conference. (Reuters wirephoto)

Fishing boat explodes after hitting mine in Gulf

MANAMA, Jan 17. (AP): A fishing boat exploded after hitting a floating mine today in Gulf waters northeast of Bahrain and its skipper was killed, the Interior Ministry said.

A ministry statement, carried by the Gulf News Agency, said another fishing boat picked up the boat's five-member crew who were injured in the blast, and took them to a Bahraini hospital.

The fishing boat also recovered the body of the skipper, identified as Yacoub Ali Yacoub, a Bahraini national, the statement said.

The statement said an investigation was under way. Drifting mines from the former Iraq-Iran war zone, torn from their moorings by winter storms, remain a hazard for shipping in the Gulf. Up to 200 floating mines may be left from the war, mainly in the northern part of the waterway.

About 20 mines have been neutralised since a ceasefire took effect on Aug 20 in the eight-year Gulf war.

A floating mine was believed responsible for an explosion on Jan 5 that triggered a fire aboard the Saudi Arabian tanker Saghara as it sailed into the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz. The Greek master and five other crew members of Greek and Sri Lankan nationality aboard the 36,904-ton tanker died in the blast. The vessel later split in two and sank.

Ransom demanded

BRUSSELS, Jan 17. (Reuters): A mysterious left-wing group which says it has kidnapped former Belgian Prime Minister Paul Vanden Boeynants demanded today that his associates pay a \$750,000 ransom, some of it to the poor.

The note, sent to two daily newspapers by a group calling itself the Socialist Revolutionary Brigade (SRB), dubbed Vanden Boeynants "a corrupt demagogue who has diverted big public sums to his personal profit."

It is okay to be workaholic

MONTEREY, Calif., Jan 17. (Reuters): Cheer up, workaholics — the latest research on heart disease shows it's okay to be a fanatic about your job.

But if you're hostile, suspicious of others' motives and have a hard time controlling your anger, you are far more likely to die at an early age than your friends who are trusting souls, Dr Redford Williams of the Duke University Medical Centre said yesterday.

Trusting hearts last longer

Specifically, people who are found, via standard psychological tests, to harbour a cynical mistrust of others' motives, to frequently experience anger and to openly express that anger are "five times more likely to die going from age 25 to age 50" than those without those traits, said Williams, who is a professor of psychiatry at Duke.

Refine

"The moral: 'Trusting hearts last longer,'" Williams told the meeting. He advised people who flare up in a slow bank queue or constantly challenge their tennis partners' out-of-bounds calls to

Shultz hails new warmth in Europe

VIENNA, Jan 17. (Reuters): The United States, hailing a new beginning for East-West concord in Europe, voiced optimism today that a new set of talks between the two power blocs could bring agreement on cutting conventional arms.

"The European continent, across its length and breadth, is much more open today than it was when we first assembled in Vienna in November 1986," US Secretary of State George Shultz told foreign ministers and delegates from 35 countries at the European Economic Conference (ECCE).

The conference on Sunday wrapped up 27 months of sometimes tough negotiations by approving a radically new co-operation package.

Optimism

At a news conference immediately after his speech Shultz said he had "some genuine optimism about the prospects for the new conventional arms talks." The negotiations, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, begin in Vienna on March 9.

Shultz made his appearance at the conference — a follow-up to the Helsinki gathering of 1975 — just before he steps down on Friday when the new administration of George Bush takes over in Washington.

Is Bhutto a martyr? Court to rule

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17. (AP): Can Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto be called a martyr, even though he was hanged a decade ago as a felon? Much of Pakistan's media thinks so, but an Islamic scholar has gone to court to prove that the late prime minister and father of the current prime minister does not qualify.

Mufti Mohammad Hussain Naesmi contends Bhutto did not die defending the Muslim faith, which he claims is the requirement by the Holy Quran, for martyrdom.

Naesmi, the principal of the religious Jamia Naesmia School, also says the title cannot be used for a person sentenced to death on a criminal charge by the nation's highest court.

Bhutto, the Pakistan People's Party leader, ruled this volatile South Asian country from 1972 until 1977. Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq ousted him in a bloodless coup in 1977.

Suspicious

A civilian court convicted Bhutto in 1979 of planning to murder ally-turned-rival Ahmad Raza Kasuri in 1974. Kasuri was unharmed when four federal security force gunmen opened fire on his car, but his father was killed, according to official records.

Bhutto claimed he was innocent, but was hanged after the Supreme Court upheld his sentence. His family and the Pakistan People's Party still insist Zia invented the charges.

Zia ruled until last August, when he died with many of his top generals in a plane crash of

(Continued on Page 2)

US did not plan to bomb Libyan plant: Reagan

WASHINGTON, Jan 17. (Agencies): President Reagan says he did not seriously consider bombing a Libyan factory which US officials say is designed to produce chemical weapons.

"We were not planning such an option," Reagan said in a Cable News Network (CNN) television interview broadcast last night.

Reagan roused speculation that US planes might bomb the Libyan plant when he was asked in another television interview on Dec 22 whether such bombing was a possibility.

"That's a decision that has not been made yet," Reagan replied then. "We're in communication with our allies... we're watching very closely that situation."

Remained

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters later that a US military option against the plant at Rabta, south of the Libyan capital Tripoli, had not been ruled out and said Reagan's words remained the "relevant ones."

But Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has denied several times that Reagan had said the United States was actively considering a bombing raid against the plant, which Libya says will make only medicines.

When Reagan was asked in the interview last night why he decided against destroying the Libyan plant, he said that had not been a planning option.

"No, I think Mr (Libyan leader Moammar) Khaddafi, because of an earlier option of ours in another case, seemed to be shouting out around the world that we were going to do something of the kind," Reagan said.

"I never like to talk about what the options might be that are considered in anything of that kind... and no, we had... we were not planning such an option."

The earlier action was a US bombing raid against Khaddafi's headquarters and other

targets in Libya in April 1986 because of what US officials called Khaddafi's role in terror attacks in Europe against Americans.

US officials said they had intelligence information that the Rabta plant had been built to produce poison gas and that West German firms helped build it.

Denied

Bonn, which at first denied the US allegation, said yesterday it had concluded that a section of the Libyan plant was equipped to make poison gas.

A West German company today said it had delivered 19 tons of a chemical solvent to Libya, adding there is a possibility that the material reached the plant in Rabta.

"We delivered 19 tons of dichloroethane to Libya in April 1988," Merck spokesman Hans-Joachim Schmitt said in Darmstadt, West Germany.

Israeli leaders rebuked West Germany today for its involvement in building the Libyan plant and threatened to "clobber" its neighbours if they deployed any such weapon against Israel.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said he planned to confront the government in Bonn with the issue of West German involvement in the chemical weapons programme, an issue which he said Israel took "very, very seriously."

Targets

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said: "Whoever will dare to use this kind of weapon against Israeli military units or against Israeli civilian targets will be clobbered 100 times if not more."

In a possible hint at pre-emptive action against Middle Eastern states equipping themselves with chemical weapons, he added: "Israel will not tolerate even thinking about the use of this kind of means against us."

Appeal against deportation

LONDON, Jan 17. (Reuters): More than 100 British members of parliament petitioned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today against the deportation of a Sri Lankan who says he faces persecution at home for supporting Tamil separatists.

Vijay Mendis, 32, has been in sanctuary in a church in the northern city of Manchester since 1986 to avoid a government deportation order issued after his student visa expired.

Work is to begin this year on the stations. Al Ghanim said they would cost KD30 million to 35 million. (\$105 to 120 million) and would include cold stores, livestock pens and special facilities for building materials and medicines.

Kuwait to build new customs stations

KUWAIT, Jan 17. (Reuters): Kuwait plans to build three major customs stations on its borders to stamp out smuggling and speed up the entry of trucks carrying goods, Customs Director Ibrahim Al Ghanim said today.

He said that all Kuwait-bound goods would have to be unloaded at the new stations at Abdali in the north, Nuwaisib in the south and Salmeh in the west.

Confirming a report in a Kuwaiti newspaper, he said trucks would be allowed to enter Kuwait only for transit in accompanied convoys or if they carried flammable materials.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

KD 250 must be won

Coupon for Game No. 68 appears on Page 13. Last date for sending entries is Jan 26 and numbers will be drawn from Jan 28.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

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- بنگلہ دیش سے محصور پاکستانیوں کی واپسی شروع ہو گئی
- پاکستانی جیلوں سے ۱۳ سال تک کی عمر کے بچوں کی رہائی
- افغان مجاہدین عراقی عسکری حکومت کا اعلان کریں گے
- مقبوضہ علاقوں میں اسرائیل کا قتل و خوار پالیسی پر عملدرآمد
- قائد اعظم کی زندگی پر فلم بنانے کی تیاریاں

WEATHER

COLD weather with moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: moderate

High water: 10:30 am, 8:00 pm

Low water: 3:30 am, 2:00 pm

Sunrise: 6:43 am

Sunset: 5:14 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 14°C 57°F

Ahmadli: 13°C 55°F

Falilaka: 13°C 55°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 5°C 39°F

Ahmadli: 5°C 41°F

Falilaka: 5°C 41°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 12°C 54°F

Ahmadli: 11°C 52°F

Falilaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 80 per cent

Ahmadli: 85 per cent

Falilaka: 80 per cent

Police violently disperse demonstrations

14 Czech activists detained

VIENNA, Jan 17, (Reuters): Czechoslovak authorities kept 14 leading dissidents in custody today amid signs of decisive action being prepared against them after police violently broke up demonstrations they organised.

An evening television announcement yesterday read out the names, addresses and dates of birth of the 14, including playwright Vaclav Havel and Charter 77 human rights movement members Dana Nemcova and Sasha Vondra.

Police dragged them away from Wenceslas Square earlier in the day after they laid flowers to commemorate the 20th anniversary of student Jan Palach's self-immolation in the square to protest against the 1968 Soviet-led invasion.

Disrupting

The state news agency Ceteka said the 14 were detained for disrupting public order with "aggressive behaviour even despite repeated appeals to disperse by the public security force."

Public naming of the 14 before formal charges were lodged breached Czechoslovak legal procedure, dissident sources said.

"There are indications that

they are going to be kept in custody," charter activist Martin Palous told Reuters by telephone from Prague. "It is obvious that the authorities have decided to do something with them."

The Prague Communist Party daily Vecerni Praha has urged harsh punishment for organisers of a banned ceremony on Sunday in Palach's memory. Half a dozen young activists have been held without charges for the past three months in connection with a banned demonstration in October.

Rebuke

Police used water cannon, truncheons and tear-gas to attack crowds on Sunday and again yesterday when activists returned to the Central Square.

The violence brought a sharp rebuke from US Secretary of State George Shultz in Vienna, where Prague's Jaromir Johanes joined 34 other foreign ministers at a conference to endorse a new accord on human rights and conventional arms talks.

Several people were seen limping away on Sunday after police with albatross dogs beat them with batons and an ambulance had to

be called for one of the injured.

But the National Party newspaper Rude Pravo today referred to a man who "threw himself on the ground and kicked up in all directions trying to call attention to himself" after police ordered citizens to disperse.

Welcomed

Rude Pravo, in reporting the reception of the Vienna accord in other countries, gave particular prominence to Romanian reservations about the agreement's human rights provisions.

The Czechoslovak government welcomed the agreement yesterday but made no mention of the police violence.

"It is quite absurd to sign this treaty, to speak in an optimistic way, on the one hand and on the other to do what was done in Prague," said activist Palous, adding he believed the two days of demonstrations were provoked by the authorities.

Czechoslovakia's hardline leaders, while professing admiration for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policies, have ruled out any compromise with opposition groups and appear intent on containing any expansion of their activities.

Bush will become the fourth-oldest, fourth-tallest president

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (Reuters): When George Bush is sworn in Friday he will become the fourth-oldest, fourth-tallest and fourth left-handed President of the United States.

Not to mention the fourth one born in Massachusetts and the fourth elected directly from the vice-presidency.

These and many other bits of background about the 41st President are rounded up in the official press guide to the inauguration, a five-pound (two-kilogram) looseleaf tome stuffed with information about the ceremony, the inaugural parade, the president, vice-president, their wives and related events.

Bush, at 64, will be older than all other presidents at their first inaugurations except Ronald Reagan, who was 69, William Henry Harrison, 68, and James Buchanan, 65.

Gemini

At six feet two inches (188 cm), Bush will be taller than all other presidents except Abraham Lincoln, six feet four (193 cm), Lyndon Johnson, six feet three (190.5 cm), and Thomas Jefferson, six feet two-and-a-half (189.25 cm).

He joins Gerald Ford, Harry Truman and James Garfield as the only left-handed presidents and, like John Adams, John Quincy Adams and John Kennedy, was born in Massachusetts.

Bush was born on June 12, 1924, the only president born in that month and only the second with Kennedy, born May 29, 1917.

His favourite breakfast is said to include yogurt and grape nuts. George Washington, by contrast, liked hockeys (a kind of pancake) and honey "swimming in butter" — a point officially noted because the guide offers a few comparisons between America's first and second Georges.

The strength and weakness of Reagan

WASHINGTON, Jan 17, (UPI): President Reagan said yesterday the saddest moment of his tenure was the bombing deaths of 241 US Marines in Lebanon, "his greatest failing" — a "soft heart" — and Donald Regan his biggest mistake.

In another in a round of far-fetched interviews, Reagan told Cable News Network last week that he was haunted by the suicide bombing of the Marine barracks at the Beirut airport on Oct 23, 1983.

Reviewing the highs and lows of his presidency, Reagan said, "I think the real saddest moment had to be that horrible killing of more than 240 Marines."



A car blazes in Miami during the rioting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Death of a motorcyclist sparks riots in Miami

MIAMI, Jan 17, (UPI): An all-night siege triggered by the death of a black motorcyclist ended in scattered rock and bottle attacks amid smoldering fires early today as heavily armed police restored calm to a black section of the city.

Overtown, a black neighbourhood, erupted last night as an estimated 100 people shot at police, set several cars and a store afire, looted businesses and threw rocks and bottles. It was the fourth outbreak of rioting in Miami this decade.

The rampage was sparked about 5:45 pm by the death of a black motorcyclist who was fleeing from police for unknown reasons. The motorcyclist was apparently shot in the head by pursuing officers. And he then collided with another vehicle, police said early today. It had not been determined if the man died from the gunshot or the collision.

Several others were hurt, including a passenger on the motorcycle and two people in the car that struck it, police said. A visiting reporter was hurt during the subsequent rioting when he wound up in the area by mistake.

Jackson Memorial Hospital spokesman Sam Crais said one man, Clement Lloyd, was dead and another, Allan Blanchard,

24, was in critical condition — both victims of the riot. Police would not say if the two men were those on the motorcycle.

Looted

The city mobilised all its officers, blocking the inner city neighbourhood and sealing off exits from an interstate highway shortly after midnight. No curfew was imposed.

An auto parts store was looted and set afire, as were a number of scattered gunfire repulsed firefighters until police with shotguns and riot shields marched down the street, police Cpt Larry Boemler said.

A full mobilisation was called in the Miami police department. Police spokesman Michael Mazur said of the department's 1,040 officers, at least 200 were sent to pacify Overtown.

Mayor Xavier Suarez and city commissioner Miller Dawkins, a black, struggled to quiet the crowd, which was estimated by police at between 75 and 100.

"We have not declared a state of emergency. It (the riot) has been contained. Let's keep it that way," city manager Cesar Odio said.

Police sealed off an area measuring 17 blocks by nine blocks in Overtown, and downtown Miami was deserted.

3 killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 17, (UPI): Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today more soldiers had been authorised to open fire on Palestinian stone-throwers and harsher punishments would be imposed in Israel's latest efforts to suppress the Palestinian uprising.

Three Palestinians died from Army gunfire today, on the sixth consecutive day of deaths stemming from clashes with Israeli soldiers. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, visiting paratroopers in the West Bank city of Nablus, told reporters Israel wanted peace and he was angry at Palestinian activists because "they force us sometimes to kill people. We don't want to kill them."

At least 19 Palestinians were wounded by live or plastic bullets in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Another 12 Palestinians were wounded in their hands and legs with a newly introduced ammunition — round rubber bullets with a metal core and weighing about one ounce, the sources said.

Seven high schools were closed today in the latest number of school closures military officials blamed on disturbances, state-run Israel Radio reported.

Soldiers today dynamited the homes of three Palestinians suspected of injuring three Israelis with stones, marking a new get-tough policy against rock-throwers in the occupied territories.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, the head of central command, said today's demolitions in the West Bank town of Kalkiya were part of a new crackdown to stem an upsurge in violence. The Army said two other houses were sealed up in the town.

Soldiers also dropped leaflets from a helicopter that hovered over Kalkiya after the demolitions, warning Palestinians that soldiers would destroy the homes of anyone caught stoning Israeli targets, Arab news reports said.

The demolitions drew immediate protests from left-wing Israeli groups. Five opposition parties filed a motion of no-confidence in the government to be debated by parliament tomorrow, Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, new Israeli Transport Minister Moshe Katav said today Israel should cooperate with the Soviet Union and Arab states to prevent terrorist attacks on civilian airlines.

"Israel's engagement in the war against terrorism in the air definitely compels us to cooperate with the Soviet Union," he told a news conference.

Hilton owners blacklisted by boycott office

(Continued from Page 1)

to constructing the same type of the plant in Syria.

Al Ghanim said there is nothing to stop such firms from doing business with Israel again but he stressed that their chances of being dropped from the blacklist for the second time would be extremely poor.

"We would drop a company from the blacklist for the second time only if the Arab world were in dire need of that firm's products or service," said Al Ghanim.

Angered

The committee office in Damascus last week called for a boycott against a Soviet firm for the first time. The firm is a subsidiary of the Pierre Cardin which angered the boycott office by offering to sell to Arab states the Pierre Cardin garments made in Israel.

At its next meeting to be held in six months the committee will examine the position of companies that have been blacklisted for 20 or more years.

"Many of these companies have undergone a total change from 20 years ago. They have new shareholders, board members and company policy. Their cases should be reviewed," said Al Ghanim.

Is Bhutto a martyr?

(Continued from Page 1)

suspicious cause. Bhutto's 35-year-old daughter, Benazir — propelled by her father's legacy — then led the Pakistan People's Party to victory last November in Pakistan's first free elections in 11 years.

Since Benazir took the prime ministerial oath on Dec 2, media frequently have referred to her late father as "shaheed," or martyr.

The issue has become emotional for thousands of Bhutto family supporters who hold the late patriarch in high esteem. They claim he laid down his life for the sake of democracy and the downtrodden masses.

Second US-PLO meeting held

TUNIS, Jan 17, (Agencies): A second meeting has taken place between US Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau and a high-ranking member of the PLO, a newspaper reported today.

Bassam Abu Sharif, chief spokesman for PLO leader Yasser Arafat, met Pelletreau briefly on Sunday at a dinner given by the British embassy for visiting Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, the Tunisian newspaper As Sahab reported.

Abu Sharif confirmed the meeting and said he discussed the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories with the US ambassador.

Arafat today flatly rejected an Israeli suggestion for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories, saying a vote could be held only after the Israelis leave.

"The only elections which are acceptable are under the auspices of the United Nations after the withdrawal of Israel," Arafat said.

Speaking at a news conference at the end of a two-day visit to Finland, Arafat rejected the notion of elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because the Palestinians had "very, very, bad experiences of elections run by Israel."

Arafat has accepted an invitation to address Arab-Americans in Washington, says a Detroit attorney who met with the PLO leader in Tunisia.

Battle rages in Polish party over legalising Solidarity

WARSAW, Jan 17, (Reuters): Poland's communist leaders, saying the country faced renewed unrest, fought with hardliners today for party permission to restore the Solidarity union they suppressed in 1981.

An unprecedented public battle raged in the central committee after the Politburo asked it a special two-day session to endorse plans to restore limited trade union freedoms and make a deal with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

The struggle within the 230-member policy-making body followed months of division and hesitation in the party over proposals to reverse a seven-year ban on Solidarity, the communist world's first independent union.

Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski and Politburo supporters warned the central committee that the deal with Solidarity was essential to avert a national crisis. Only a handful of committee members appeared to agree.

Proposal

According to official media, only four of the first 19 speakers from the floor yesterday and today clearly backed the proposal to change the party line or trade union freedoms contained in a Politburo position paper.

Several speakers said they feared that restoring Solidarity

could cause anarchy in Polish factories and revive the challenge to communist rule launched by the trade union during its 16 months of legality in 1980-81.

"We do not need other unions to carry out reforms. More unions will not give us more bread," said Eugeniusz Kawalec, a central committee member from southern Poland.

"Our society doesn't want any Solidarity. It passed through that trial in 1981," said Jan Turzynski, a party chief from a southwestern copper mining area.

The Politburo is proposing a deal with Solidarity as the key to forging an unprecedented alliance with the moderate opposition to overcome popular distrust and win backing for badly-needed economic reforms.

Designed

The central committee was due to vote later today on the Politburo position paper and on a draft resolution on reforms designed to improve the party's image.

Zygmunt Czarzasty, a powerful liberal in the central committee secretariat, presented the Politburo paper. He said the decision to opt for union pluralism was not a political gesture to the opposition but a social necessity.

"Social agreement must be reached in the interests of social peace," Czarzasty declared.

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Joint manoeuvres

PARIS, Jan 17, (AP): France and the United States will conduct joint air and sea manoeuvres in the Mediterranean during the first half of February, the French news agency France-Press has reported.

The French aircraft carriers Clemenceau and Foch and the American carrier Theodore Roosevelt are scheduled to participate in the exercise, codenamed "Phinnia," AFP said yesterday.

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In Ever Loving Memory of

Caitano Azavedo
Born: 21-11-1912
Died: 18-1-1988

1st anniversary mass will be held at Holy Family Cathedral on 19/1/89 at 6.30 pm, offered by his children — Peggy, Alberto & Michael. Relatives and friends kindly accept this as an intimation.

Unknown gunmen kill Sri Lankan soldier

COLOMBO, Jan 17, (UPI): Unidentified gunmen today fired on Sri Lankan troops manning a checkpoint on a road in Tamil-dominated northeastern province, killing a soldier and wounding a civilian passerby, a Defence Ministry official said.

In another development, hundreds of troops backed by helicopters swept an area of southern Sri Lanka in a hunt for three Army commandos who were abducted by leftist rebels of the ethnic Sinhalese majority after a firefight, the official said. The official said an unknown number of "terrorists" fired at Sri Lankan troops posted at a checkpoint on a main road just outside the northeastern province town of Vavuniya, 140 miles northeast of Colombo.

Self-rule

At least one soldier was killed and a civilian passerby was wounded, he said.

The troops radioed for reinforcements, who were also fired on by the gunmen. The gunmen then fled in the direction of Vavuniya, he said.

The official said the Sri Lankan Army alerted Indian troops posted in Vavuniya to enforce a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord aimed at ending a five-

year civil war by rebels of the mostly Hindu Tamil minority.

The accord, under which Tamil-dominated northeastern province was granted limited self-rule in a bid to satisfy rebel demands for independence from the Sinhalese-controlled government, was accepted by four of five guerrilla groups, but rejected by the strongest, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The LTTE has been badly battered by the Indian force of some 60,000 men, but continues to operate from jungle hideouts, many in the Vavuniya area.

There was no word on whether the Indian troops had intercepted the attackers.

Meanwhile, some 500 Sri Lankan troops backed by helicopters pressed a search around Hingam, 210 km southeast of Colombo, for three members of a crack Army commando unit who were abducted by Sinhalese rebels of the leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

The Defence Ministry official said the commandos were with a detachment sent to the town yesterday to conduct a house-to-house search for JVP members, who have been pressing a violent drive to oust the ruling United National Party from power.

Afghan rebels to set up interim government

ISLAMABAD, Jan 17, (Reuters): Afghan resistance groups will meet on Feb 1 to approve an interim government they say must rule Afghanistan after Soviet troops complete their withdrawal, a party leader said.

Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar told a news conference there would be no role for President Najibullah's People's Democratic Party and probably none for the country's deposed king, Zahir Shah, exiled in Rome since a 1973 coup.

Hekmatyar, regarded by Western diplomats as one of the most radical of the rebel leaders, said he believed none of the guerrilla parties would name the ex-king as a delegate to the meeting.

Talks

Hekmatyar said no venue had yet been set for the meeting that was approved by the main seven-party guerrilla alliance based in neighbouring Pakistan, although a majority wanted to hold it in a rebel-held area inside Afghanistan.

The parties will each name 60 delegates to the assembly, although Hekmatyar said the representation for a smaller rebel alliance based in Iran had not yet been determined.

The Pakistan-based alliance,

announced last week it was breaking off talks with Moscow on a future broad-based government for Afghanistan until an estimated 50,000 remaining Soviet troops complete the scheduled Feb 15th withdrawal and Moscow ends support for Najibullah.

The alliance has also rejected Najibullah's unilateral declaration of a ceasefire in the nine-year war from Jan 1 and vowed to fight on until his government falls.

Successes

Yesterday, the guerrillas killed five people and injured eight in rocket attacks on Kabul, shattering a peace of about three weeks in the Afghan capital, Kabul Radio said.

The alliance named an interim government last year with Ahmad Shah, a US-educated engineer, as Prime Minister and Hekmatyar said it was possible the same team would be proposed.

Soviet officials have proposed the creation of a broad-based government that would include Najibullah's party and the former king as well as guerrilla leaders in Iran and Pakistan.

Afghan guerrillas are closing in on the government-held city of Jalalabad after months of suc-

cesses in the area, including the capture of a showcase Soviet farm, rebel sources said.

Ubaidullah Seerat, a member of the supreme council of the seven-party alliance based in Pakistan, said guerrillas were within five km of Jalalabad, capital of the eastern province of Nangarhar.

"Mujahedeen are preparing for a major and joint attack and are holding a shura (council) to discuss the question of security in Jalalabad city after it falls," Seerat said.

A spokesman for Hezb-e-Islami, one of the seven parties active in the province on the Pakistan border, said it was difficult to predict when the guerrillas would take the city, target of frequent rebel rocket attacks.

However, he added: "It will easily be before the Russians leave."

Rebel sources said an important Soviet farm project at Ghaziabad near Jalalabad had been overrun by guerrillas in November. Another farm, Hadda, was being infiltrated by the rebels in close fighting with government troops, they said.

Last week the Kabul government accused Pakistan of using helicopters to transport guerrilla leaders and foreign advisers to Ghaziabad farm.



Two Afghan children sit in a wheelbarrow during a break from work at a food distribution centre at the Nasirbagh refugee camp outside Peshawar. (Reuters wirephoto)

US overlooks human rights abuses by friends

NEW YORK, Jan 17, (AP): President Ronald Reagan's administration rarely protested human rights violations in countries viewed as friendly to US interests but repeatedly condemned such violations in communist countries, a report says.

The criticism was detailed in "the Reagan administration's record on human rights in 1988," a report by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and The Human Rights Watch.

The two groups praised the Reagan administration for placing a greater emphasis on human rights in the last few years than it did earlier.

The report noted in particular the administration's insistence that human rights occupy a prominent place in the US-Soviet agenda, which it said has resulted in improvements in human rights in the Soviet Union, including the release of hundreds of political and religious prisoners.

Pressure

While the report acknowledged that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was also responsible for these changes, the Reagan administration was credited with taking "advantage of the Gorbachev opening" by placing "consistent pressure on human rights issues."

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration provided enormous amounts of military and financial assistance to military groups with "appalling human rights records," including the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, the UNITA insurgency in Angola, and the national armies of El Salvador, Guatemala, the Philippines, and the Sudan, the report said.

Excuses

The report said the administration's "most conspicuous failing" was the fact that it rarely protested abuses committed by the military once a civilian occupied a presidential palace. Moreover, in certain cases, such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and occasionally the Philippines, the administration minimised abuses or denied that they were taking place.

The administration also was attacked for refraining from criticising human rights violations by Israel against Palestinians in occupied territories.

Praise for the Reagan administration included the way it provided "pressure at key moments to nudge certain dictators and military juntas allied with the United States towards elections, as well as to protect newly elected civilian governments against military coups."

Secret talks to ease Korean tensions

SEOUL, Jan 17, (Reuters): Senior American and South and North Korean military officials held secret talks today in what Seoul officials said was a bid to fix an agenda for reducing tensions along the North-South border.

For the first time since the 1953 truce ending the Korean War, delegations from the communist North and the American-led United Nations Command met without prior announcement in a closed-door session of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC).

The South Korean Defence Ministry confirmed without comment Seoul press reports that the meeting took place at the Panmunjom border village, and that the aim was to "fix an agenda for reduction of tensions in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas."

Summit

It was the 445th meeting of the commission in the past 35 years, but the first to which newsmen were not invited. The motive of the UN command, which called the session, was not immediately clear.

After three years when dialogue between the Koreas was completely suspended, the two sides resumed contacts through

parliamentary delegations last summer.

Meanwhile, President Roh Tae-Woo said today he wants to meet soon with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung in a bid to end the 40 years of bitter rivalry between the two nations.

South Korea is preparing a "realistic" proposal to eventually reunite the two Koreas by seeing the North not as an enemy, but as "a partner that also seeks to solve this problem," Roh told a two-hour news conference.

Leaders of the two Koreas have never met and the two sides are technically still at war since a peace treaty was not signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Roh said he hoped to hold a summit with the North Korean leader "in the near future," but gave no details.

The President said recent developments indicated North Korea also wants reconciliation and there was a growing chance of "epoch-making progress." But Roh said he could not give further details at this time.

Roh, outlining his administration's plans for the coming year, said the government would continue its efforts to build a democratic system and ensure continued economic growth to raise living standards.

Site purified for Hirohito's mausoleum

TOKYO, Jan 17, (UPI): A solemn religious rite purified a wooded area in suburban Tokyo today for construction of the imperial mausoleum where Japan's late Emperor Hirohito will be buried.

About 10 officials attended the traditional ceremony held in accordance with Japan's indigenous Shinto religion and prayed for smooth and safe completion of the construction.

Hirohito, the longest-reigning monarch in Japan's 2,600-year-old "Chrysanthemum Throne," died of duodenal cancer on Jan 7 at age 87.

Palace officials said the 32.8-foot high, oval-shaped mausoleum will be built in a 26,750-square-foot area adjacent to the tombs of Hirohito's parents, Emperor Taisho and Empress Teimei. It will be located in Hachioji in the western suburb of Tokyo.

The Imperial Household Agency officials said an underground stone block will be built to place Hirohito's coffin after a state funeral scheduled for Feb 24.

It will take about one year to complete the entire mausoleum, the officials said.

Amal-Hezbollah truce in the offing

Shiite fighting in Beirut eases

BEIRUT, Jan 17, (Reuters): Syrian troops brought relative calm to Beirut's southern suburbs today after rival Muslim Shiite groups exchanged sporadic fire overnight.

Security sources said intermittent rocket and machinegun fire between the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in the Hay Madi and Rawdet areas died away after the Syrians called for a halt in the fighting.

The troops are among some 25,000 Syrians deployed in Lebanon.

Shiite leaders are also seeking a long-term truce between Amal and Hezbollah, the Tehran

backed and financed party, which are battling for control of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

Political sources said the vice-president of the Higher Shiite Council, Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, met Hezbollah leaders yesterday for the second time in four days and discussed ways to end the conflict.

Nearly three weeks of fighting in Beirut's Shiite southern suburbs and in southern Lebanon have left at least 140 people dead and 150 wounded.

A four-day lull continued in Jubah in southern Lebanon after devastating house-to-house battles but rival Amal and Hez-

bollah gunmen clung to their positions in and around the small hilltop town.

The lull allowed the Lebanese Red Cross on Sunday to remove the bodies of 11 Amal militiamen and nine Hezbollah fighters from the shattered town, from whence all but 500 of the 6,000 residents have fled.

The Red Cross said it was awaiting word on whether it could carry away more casualties from Jubah.

Some of the bodies were brought to the southern suburbs of Beirut where thousands of Amal and Hezbollah supporters held separate funeral processions.

12 die as school building collapses in Punjab

AMRITSAR, Jan 17, (AP): Parts of a girls school collapsed in north Punjab state today, killing 12 students and injuring 18 others, police said.

The building in Gurdaspur, 90 kilometres south of Amritsar, was under repair when parts of it crashed down, said area police chief P.M. Das.

There were 40 students in the classroom of the government-run school when the accident occurred. Das said 10 students who were sitting in the back rows escaped unhurt.

Eight of the 18 injured were in critical condition.

Police in the state capital of Chandigarh said the collapse occurred in the morning at the Dayanand Arya Vedic School, a private secondary school in the town of Gurdaspur, 210 km to the northwest.

The roof of a first-floor classroom under repair suddenly collapsed onto the ceiling of a ground-floor classroom, police said.

The ceiling gave way under the weight of the rubble, sending

debris cascading into the classroom, killing at least 12 students and leaving 18 injured, they said.

Firefighters and police rushed to the school to pull the casualties out of the debris, police said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said 40 students, aged between 12 and 14 years, were in the classroom at the time of the accident.

It said groups of grieving parents gathered outside the school seeking word on the condition of their daughters.

56 more drug smugglers executed

ATHENS, Jan 17, (UPI): The Iranian authorities executed another 56 drug smugglers in Tehran and other cities, as part of a tough new campaign to stamp out trafficking, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said today.

The latest executions brought to 103 the total number of drug smugglers executed in Iran since the beginning of the year.

The news agency, monitored in Athens, said 56 drug traffickers were executed in Tehran and 16 in other cities. It quoted a source in the Prime Ministry as saying those executed included three Afghans and a Pakistani.

The traffickers were executed by hanging and yesterday's executions were the largest number in one day, since Iran launched the tough anti-narcotics campaign last month, IRNA said.

Besides Tehran, where seven people were hanged, the 16 other cities where executions were carried out included Isfahan, Urmieh, Mashad, Bakhtaran, Shiraz, Kerman, Karaj, Hamadan, Zahedan, Birjand, Tabriz, Nahavand, Qom, Gorgan, Rasht and Varamin.

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THE GULF BANK

UAE deputy premier to visit China

ABU DHABI, Jan 17, (Reuters): United Arab Emirates (UAE) Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Nahayan today accepted an invitation to visit China but no date has been fixed, the official Emirates news agency WAM said.

Sheikh Hamdan will be the highest ranking UAE official to visit China since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1985.

Saudi relief for Bangladesh

DAMMAM, Jan 17 (KUNA): Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz has issued directives to send urgent relief assistance to Bangladesh including SR18 million (about \$6 million) in cash, medicine and other medical requirements for victims of the train collision near Dhaka last Monday.

3,500 students to graduate

3,500 students are expected to graduate during the academic year 1988/1989, according to Dr Mustafa Marafi, the Dean of Registration and Admission, at Kuwait University.

He expects 1,500 graduates during the first semester and 2,000 during the second semester.

Clarification

OFFICER in charge of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kuwait Ali Al Zatarin has clarified that the basic agreement between the government of Kuwait and the UNDP has not yet been signed, but is in the process of being reviewed for signature by both parties in a few months time.

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Gabid prepares for OIC foreign ministers conference

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Agencies): Hamid Al Gabid, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, held talks today with Kuwaiti leaders in preparation for a meeting of foreign ministers from the 46-nation grouping.

Gabid, 47, a former prime minister of Niger who became OIC secretary general Jan 1, was received by the HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and later held talks with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

Differences
The annual foreign ministers' conference is set for March 13-16 in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh, where the OIC is headquartered.

In an interview published in the Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh,

Gabid said that in the absence of "wars and severe differences among the member states" the OIC could focus on forming an Islamic Court of Justice and member-nations' economic and social development.

OIC meetings in recent years were dominated by the Iran-Iraq war and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, whose membership was suspended after a 1978 Marxist government takeover.

The Soviet Union is due to complete withdrawal by Feb 15 of an estimated 115,000 troops who were combatting Islamic Afghan rebels known as the mujahedeen (holy warriors).

Backing

An Aug 20 cease-fire halted the 8-year Gulf war.

Gabid told Al Riyadh the OIC "deals with the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) as a Palestinian state," and affirmed it will back "any measure the PLO adopts to liberate its territory."

Referring to the Muslim minority in the Philippines who have been struggling for autonomy in the southern Mindanao regions for 17 years, Gabid pointed out that the OIC had helped negotiate an accord between the rebels and the Manila government, but that it has not taken effect.

Goodwill

"There is goodwill on the part of Philippines President Corason Aquino but it seems she does not have the freedom of action to translate this goodwill," Gabid was quoted as saying.

Gabid also said his priorities were to achieve more co-ordination in the group.



HH the Amir, chairman of OIC received yesterday the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamid Al Gabid.

Bombay underworld king wants to surrender

NEW DELHI, Jan 17, (KUNA): Bombay's underworld king Dawood Ibrahim, presently in Dubai, is understood to have sent feelers from the United Arab Emirates for surrender to the police.

Top police officials said that Dawood's henchmen have informed the police of surrender through intermediaries. These associates of Ibrahim are on the wanted list for their involvement in killing of Ashok Joshi, another gangster and his four associates on Dec 4 last year.

The alleged gangster and his associates were killed in an ambush on the Bombay-Pune highway when their car was intercepted by five vehicles and about 20 gunmen wielding automatic weapons sprayed bullets killing all the occupants.

Six of those allegedly involved in the ambush have been arrested. Others have fled to Dubai. The police knew in advance that a number of gangsters will go to Dubai from Bombay to attend Dawood's birthday. The leader's birthday was followed by marriage of Dawood's right-hand man Rajender Sadeshev at Dubai on Dec 28.

Following the daylight murder of Satish Raje, a close associate of Dawood in November, his brother Noora and Anees fled to Dubai to escape any murder attempt.

Raje's killing is suspected to be the handiwork of Ashok Joshi, who was later killed by Dawood's henchmen.

Despite tight police security, all wanted men and associates of Dawood eluded the dragnet by using airports at Goa, Trivandrum, Kathmandu or sailing to Dubai in dhows.

Traffic accidents

TWO motorists died in the course of 21 traffic accidents. One of the motorists was instantly killed when his car collided with another on Wafr Road and the other died in a collision on Al Mutlaa Road.

Five arrested for smuggling

FIVE men were arrested yesterday, by Hawalli Governorate detectives, on a charge of selling drugs, narcotic pills and liquor, as reported by the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior.

Three of the defendants, Raja H. Saud F. Obaid R. are Kuwaitis while the other two, Fahed M. and Mohammed, A. are Saudi Arabian.

The department said that the detectives seized 7.5 kilograms of hashish, 130 narcotic pills, 72 cans of beer and an unlicensed pistol in the defendants' car.

The defendants and the confiscated contraband were referred to relevant authorities.

Telephone network upgrading still in progress

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Subscriber Service Affairs at the Ministry of Communication Khaleel Al Houti has said that the upgrading and amelioration of existing telephone network is still in progress, following the completion of the first four work stages.

He told a local newspaper that the fifth and last stage would be implemented over a maximum period of three years, with related tenders invited intermittently. The fifth stage will include Kuwait City, old Jahra, Ahmadi, Fahaheel and Sulaibikhat.

He paid tribute to the attention accorded to the development of the existing communication services by the government, and said that a total of KD600 million had been allocated to fund the various ministry efforts to upgrade services.

National day committee

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (KUNA): Acting on instructions from the Council of Ministers to re-organise the National Day Festivities Committee, Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad today named the following committees under his chairmanship: **Said Al Al-Nahbi** (Minister of Education), **Abdullah Al-Nahbi** (Minister of Culture), **Yousef Al-Rasbi** (Minister of Finance), **Fatima Hussein Al-Essa** and **Munawer Ghanim Al-Jafawi**.

The committee was assigned to draw a general plan and execute steps for festivities marking the 28th National Day holiday based on participation of state ministries and institutions, private organisations and citizens.

BRITAIN DIGEST

Britain has the largest international presence at Mecom 89

BRITAIN has the largest participation in the forthcoming 6th Middle East Electronic Communications Show and Conference Exhibition Mecom 89. The government-sponsored British group of nearly 20 companies is once again the largest international presence at this major event. Participation by British companies has been co-ordinated by the British Overseas Trade Board and the Electronic Engineering Association.

According to Brandon Jennings, Chief Executive of Arabian Exhibition Management, this is the first international exhibition in the Middle East in which GPT, a new company created through the merger of GEC and Plessey will be taking part.

"The company will be exhibiting their latest range of telecommunications products including their highly successful ISDX (Integrated Services Digital Exchange), feature phones, pay phones and transmission equipment."

Besides established companies that have been regular participants at the Mecom shows, this year's show has also attracted companies that are seeking to explore the Middle East market. Similarly, the sixty-year-old firm of Hamer & Simmons which manufactures battery chargers for telecom applications is also seeking Middle East agents.

The overall emphasis of the British group is on presenting the latest telecommunications equipment for the benefit of small businesses, telecommunications authorities and defence purchasers in the Middle East.

"The rapidly improving political situation in the region and subsequent buying up of the regional economy has resulted in Mecom 89 being received with more than usual interest," said Jennings.

"The British group is perhaps the most representative of exhibitors' reception of the show and has a good mix of established companies and first-timers seeking new marketing avenues in the Middle East," he added.

Other leading companies joining the British national group at Mecom 89 include Standard Telephone & Cable, Central Telecom, Miteh & Telford — all offering new and exciting products for the public.

Mecom 89 will take place at the Exhibition Centre Bahrain from Jan. 26. Entrance to the exhibition is limited to computer and communication professional traders and business men only.

Three border cities planned to prevent smuggling

THE government has approved the establishment of three customs cities at Abdali, Salami and Nuwaiseb border centres, a local daily reported yesterday. The project will cost about KD35 million and has already been allocated by the government. The project aims at preventing foreign vehicles and trucks as well as Kuwaiti vehicles working on external routes from entering the country. This will put an end to smuggling activities.

The biggest customs city will be at Abdali and the smallest one in Nuwaiseb centre. The project was approved after being studied by relevant authorities which are the Public Customs Authority, Interior Ministry, Finance Ministry and General Warehouses Company and the Refrigerating Industry Company.

Reliable sources expected that work at the project will start in one year from now after the completion of custom cities design.

Several foreign experts from the EEC countries helped with the design of the customs.

After establishment of the cities, all long vehicles and trucks entering the country, coming from the GCC states will have their goods at these cities. The special automatic check will get it loaded on to other vehicles and trucks that work strictly inside Kuwait. The whole operation will be supervised by the General Warehouses Company and Refrigerating Industry Company. The unloading will be controlled by security staff using sophisticated electronic equipment.

In areas of the long vehicle and trucks, the customs will have a more secure and less confusing for drivers and transportation companies. The customs men have succeeded in exposing attempts to smuggle narcotics and other prohibited materials inside long vehicles, but the new system will introduce stricter control and inspection at the border centres, sources said.

Palestinian festival opens

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE declaration of the Palestinian state has become an obstacle to Israel's expansionist policies, according to the Palestinian Ambassador to Kuwait, Awni Battash.

At the opening of the four-day festival, held in support of the Palestinian uprising, yesterday at the Fahabel Sea Club, he told the Arab Times that as long as the uprising continues, Israelis will clamp down on Palestinians with their repressive policies.

Battash said the uprising is a long accumulative struggle against oppression and injustice in the occupied land. He added that the solid belief of Palestinians in the return of their land is the core of the continuous uprising and stone throwing, even though they are attacked by modern equipment.

Battash praised the Kuwaiti government for its full support and appreciated its gift of a



A group of Palestinian students singing patriotic songs at the opening of the festival.

Palestinian embassy in Kuwait.

The festival exhibited Palestinian heritage, children's paintings and other arts which revealed enthusiasm of Palestinian residents in Kuwait. Palestinian handicraft in the form of exquisite embroidery was also

exhibited. Young children also participated with donations of their drawings of Al Aqsa Mosque and the national flag.

30 Palestinian youths also wore army uniforms and marched proudly, singing revolutionary songs.

DGCA to regulate departure fees

CONTACTS are currently underway between the Ministry of Finance and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to regulate the implementation of the cabinet decision on imposing departure fees on passengers leaving the country via Kuwait International Airport.

A local daily has reported that the Minister of Service Affairs, Essa Al Mazidi, assigned the director of the DGCA, Sheikh Mubarak Al Abdullah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, to maintain contacts with the Ministry of Finance to agree on the ways to regulate the executive procedures of the decision.

A joint committee will be set up to undertake the assignment of qualified personnel to supervise the implementation of the decision, the paper said.

Efforts are currently being exerted to establish good technique so that the fees imposed on passengers can be collected without causing any inconvenience.

Kuwait Sheraton nominated best hotel for 1988

IN the first over MEED business travel poll, MEED readers voted for their favourite hotel, travel service and airline serving the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. A total of 530 questionnaires from 35 countries, including most Arab states were returned to MEED House — a tremendous response by any standard.

Readers voted for the hotels on the basis of both service and value for money. The totals were aggregated to seek the best overall.

Sheraton won the best hotel citations for Abu Dhabi, Doha and Kuwait Sheratons. All three were also voted top hotel restaurants in their respective cities.

Sheraton was deemed to have the best executive club facilities — a tribute to the group's excellent incentive scheme for business travellers.

The awards were distributed at the Business Travel Award Ceremony in Bahrain on Nov 27, 1988.

Contract signed

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (KUNA): Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti on Tuesday signed a KD 1,091 million contract with a local company for construction and maintenance of a mosque.

The mosque, to be built in Khaitan's southern extension, will include accommodation facilities for the imam, stand-by power station and other services.

The project is to be finalised within 500 days, according to the contract.

Five arrested for smuggling

FIVE men were arrested yesterday, by Hawalli Governorate detectives, on a charge of selling drugs, narcotic pills and liquor, as reported by the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior.

Three of the defendants, Raja H. Saud F. Obaid R. are Kuwaitis while the other two, Fahed M. and Mohammed, A. are Saudi Arabian.

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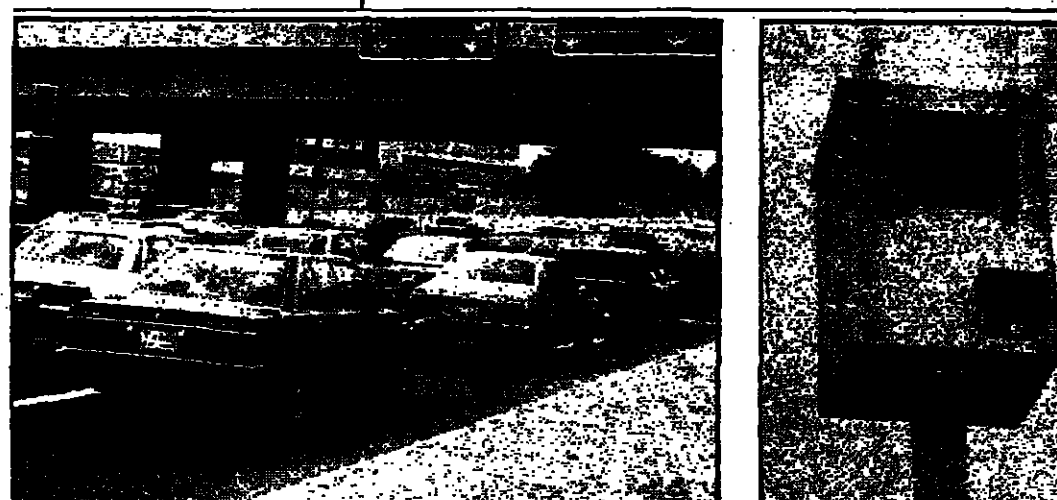
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The camera (right) which the traffic department will soon use to track traffic light violators.

Camera to help catch traffic violators

TRAFFIC light violators will no longer go undetected as traffic authorities are planning to introduce a computerised system that will spot all violators.

The Director of the Traffic General Department, Col. Salem Al Roumi told KUNA that cameras will be placed on road junctions.

He added that a test carried out in the past few days yielded positive results as the camera detected 107 violators within a single hour. The experiment will be repeated in the summer to find

out the effect of dust, heat and humidity on the cameras. If the results are proved successful, the system will be used throughout the country.

The cameras are capable of photographing violating vehicles thereby revealing the colour and the plate number. It also registers the date, hour, minutes and seconds of the incident. They are designed to take as many as 400 photographs a day and have special 17-metre films with an adapting device whereby common ordinary-size films can be mounted.

The system is connected by underground wires which will be activated for stand-by position when the traffic light turns red. As soon as a vehicle passes a red light, or crosses the front of the traffic line the camera will start taking pictures.

Roumi pointed out that the camera is capable of taking five pictures of different cars at the same time, with each picture detailed enough to identify each car.

The system is now under probation and thereby no tickets will be issued, the official said.

Iraq prepares constitution to allow new political parties

BAGHDAD, Jan 17, (Agencies): Iraq will soon have a new constitution allowing the formation of new political parties, state-run television said yesterday.

It said President Saddam Hussein presided over a joint meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and Baath Party regional leaders to discuss post-war political changes.

A new constitution, to be put to a referendum in the near future, would allow the formation of new political parties, although they would be expected to conform to the constitution's principles, it said.

Iraq's current constitution is a provisional charter issued in September 1968, two months after the Baath party took power.

Amnesty
Hussein announced last November that following the August 20 Gulf war ceasefire he planned to declare an amnesty for political prisoners and exiles and permit the formation of new parties.

Besides the Baath, Iraq has two Kurdish parties linked with Baath in a National Patriotic Front — the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Kurdish Revolutionary Party.

The television said "The formation of new political parties is an important factor of the country's future political life."

Meanwhile more than 800 Iraqis were expected to register as candidates for the third national assembly, elections scheduled for March, a government official said.

The official, who asked not to be named, said that the deadline for applications expired yesterday.

The elections for the 255-seat assembly, the Iraqi Parliament formed in 1980, were originally scheduled for Aug 30.

VIDEO CORNER

'Tis folly to be wise in Parador

By Gail Seery

IF I was engaged in a conversation with someone, and I'd just asked them what they'd been up to for the last year, and they gazed wistfully off beyond me and replied, "Well, if you'd ever seen the moon over Parador, if you'd ever seen it floating over the Gulf of Sorrows," or smelt gardenias in the air, or seen the sunlight on the red tiles of the rooftops.... I would almost certainly hit him with my notepad and move away rapidly.

Interestingly enough, in *Moon over Parador*, which stars Richard Dreyfuss and Raul Julia, the only time the moon

comes into question is in those opening words, and in a penultimate shot. It's just a way of getting Parador into the film — which in turn is just a way of getting Richard Dreyfuss onto our screens.

As has become so common recently, the film is a one-man show, with Dreyfuss very much in charge. He plays Jack Noah, an actor who happens to be in Parador shooting an action film in which he plays a Don Johnson look-alike without the Ferrari. He ends up giving an impersonation of the country's dictator, to the dictator, which fortunately, he survives.

The people love Alphonse Simms their dictator — so

much so, that they don't miss the national assembly. There is a democracy of sorts however. They can vote either Blue Simms or White Simms — they get the same leader, they just choose the colour of the rosette.

But the dictator has a heart attack shortly afterwards, and one of his aides remembers Noah's impersonation. Roberto Stroussel is the least amiable of the dictator's staff. He decides that Jack Noah will have to take over. "Why don't you get Roberto de Niro or Dustin Hoffman?" shrieks Noah. "Not available!" yells back Roberto.

Noah doesn't particularly

want to get involved. "Play the part or I'll kill you," explains Roberto reasonably. "You'd make a very good dictator," observes Noah. "Thank you," responds Roberto.

Of course, the dictator's personal entourage can tell immediately that it is not the real Alphonse Simms, but as one of them so rightly points out, "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise."

Then Noah meets up with the dictator's mistress and she shows him another aspect of Parador, the rather quaintly portrayed poverty and suffering. Noah finds it quite astounding that there should be

guerrillas out there who hate him.

This film has a plot which can't be sustained convincingly beyond the length and scope of the average pop video. The dialogue is unconvincing, the supporting roles are played poorly — the fat American CIA man should get an award as the least convincingly played role of the decade.

Worse still, the film is smug and patronising, and totally unrealistic. Dreyfuss puts in some typically talented, frenetic and amusing acting, but rarely manages to lift the film very far beyond the asinine and contrived.

praise *Split Decisions*. You know the story off by heart — Eddie is a promising boxer, set to join the 1988 Olympic team, already promised a place in college. Ray, his brother is a professional fighter in over his head who refuses to throw his next fight against the vicious Pedroza. He is killed. Father (and coach) Gene Hackman tries to dissuade Eddie from challenging killer Pedroza to a bout, but finally helps to train him for the big fight.

There's nothing really wrong with *Split Decisions*, and the strong cast includes Jennifer Beals (Flashdance). However, the film ultimately hits the canvas under the sheer weight of the clichés which are trotted out again and again.

Feds could well have been entitled *FBI Academy*. After watching comedies about how policemen, drivers, stewards, soldiers and various other groups are trained, it is difficult to find much new ground in the FBI. Two girls (Rebecca DeMornay and Maria Gross) are inducted into a new group of male trainees, and encounter the usual problems of bias and prejudice. One is physically strong but without any capability for learning, and vice versa. Of course, they help each other out and after busting a few bank robbers, scoring straight A's and shooting straight 100's, they finally make it into the ranks of the US highest law enforcement agency.

Two other films which will appeal to the action hungry are *Cross Mission*, a story of drug busting in Latin America, and *Search and Destroy*, another Vietnam thriller.

THE above films are by courtesy of VFI Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Nauf, Salmiya, Tel: 2432809; Video Club, Salmiya, Tel: 5724372.

No evidence of realism

Debra Winger and Tom Berenger in *Betrayed*.

she tries to oppose his repugnant activities. Yet the performance of Winger and Berenger and supporting cast imbue the film with an undeniable power, and in fact it shot straight up to number 2 at the American box office. Truth may be interesting, but a bit of stretching makes it more exciting.

The Merchant/Ivory team, known for sedate, period classics such as *A Room With a View* and *Heat and Dust*. Their latest film *The Deceivers* is set in the 1820's, but differs from their previous efforts in that it is a gory yarn about historical cult sect. The Thugs or Deceivers as they were known, strangled and robbed as part of

a secret cult dedicated to the greater glory of the goddess Kali. With the help of a renegade Thug — but without the approval of his superior officer — Captain Savage (Pierce Brosnan) infiltrates the group via a change of clothes, staining his body and passing himself off as Gopal the weaver. No questions asked, he is first put to work as a gravedigger, but then, of course, he is asked to indulge in a spot of strangling. Initially forced into the practice to prevent his cover from being blown, Savage, under the influence of the cult's mass rituals, grows to enjoy the task.

Although the film has psychological pretensions, this is fundamentally a stiff upper rippling yarn. And a British chap ultimately knows his duty. When the chips are down the cavalry can be expected to do their stuff to rescue even a briefly discredited fellow officer. Dripping with local colour, including the sound of scrunching necks, *The Deceivers* is an intimate historical epic which should appeal to all the not too squeamish.

Gene Hackman is a popular actor whose name alone will give a good push to any film. The director, David Drury, came up with one of the best recent British thrillers, *Defence of the Realm*. But apart from that it is hard to find much to

praise *Split Decisions*. You know the story off by heart — Eddie is a promising boxer, set to join the 1988 Olympic team, already promised a place in college. Ray, his brother is a professional fighter in over his head who refuses to throw his next fight against the vicious Pedroza. He is killed. Father (and coach) Gene Hackman tries to dissuade Eddie from challenging killer Pedroza to a bout, but finally helps to train him for the big fight.

Cuban art exhibition

MORE than 53 paintings by Cuban artists are on show at an art exhibition which opened on Sunday at the Kuwait National Museum.

The abstract paintings depict Latin American legends and detail some aspects of life in South America.

The ten-day exhibition was organised by the Kuwait Formative Arts Society and the Cuban embassy in Kuwait. It is open to public daily from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm. Picture on left shows visitors admiring some of the paintings on show.

Ahmed Kart Racing

JAN 20: Kart racing starts at Ahmed KOC track at 1.30 pm. Gates open to spectators. Entrance: 500 fils. All are welcome.

PBAK Elections

JAN 20: 6 pm. The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait will hold their annual general elections. All PBAK members are requested to attend. For details call Sarah Macarimbang — Tel: 4843447.

Second Filipino non-pro bowling

JAN 20: 8.30 am: Zamboanga City vs Paranaque; San Juan vs Valencia; 11.30 am: Manila vs Las Pinas; Caloocan City vs Quezon City; 2.30 pm: Mandalay vs Baguio City; Cavite City vs Makati.

The tournament has been jointly sponsored by Dollaro and Holiday Inn.

Laser Sailing

FEB 3: Start of Messilah Beach laser club's spring series. Laser owners and others interested are welcome. For details contact David Clark: 4845171/2425947; P. Shepherd — 4841513/5314957; P. Perry — 3924174.

* All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT — Thurs: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT — Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

Sultan Gallery
ANN Eid: Photographs of Kuwait, on show at the gallery, Thumayan Al Ghanem Bldg., Al Sour St. Open daily from 5-8 pm.

Iwan Gallery
EXHIBITION of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 1 pm, 5 to 9 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salmiya.

Ghadir Gallery
UNTIL JAN 24: Kuwaiti artist Awatif Al Shatty will display a selection of her latest paintings at the gallery. It will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Society for Formative Arts
JAN 27 to Feb 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

THEATRE

Kuwait Players
Kuwait Players present *Alice in Wonderland*, a musical fantasy directed by Carol Jelley. It will be performed at the



Universal American School, Salwa. Performances are as follows: Jan 18 and 25, (6.30 pm) family night. Jan 19/26: matinee (3 pm) and evening (7.30 pm). Jan 20: 3 pm, 5.30 pm. Jan 23: 5.30 pm: Madhatters Tea Party, followed by Alice in Wonderland. Jan 27: Final performance. Tickets — KD3 (adults) and KD2.500 (children). For reservations call 5726048, 5657749.

Funkar Arts Group
JAN 27, 5 pm: The Indian theatre group, Funkar Arts will present two one-act plays. *Bus Stop*, a comedy and *Second Trap*, a suspense drama will be performed at the IAC. A dance show will also be held.

IAC Drama Competition
IAC will hold an one-act play competition in the first half of May. All Indian groups can enter the competition. For details call 3904817 after 6.30 pm; Sharma — 2644863; Raman — 3903879.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
Rehearsals for the next

Kuwait Singers concert will be held each Saturday and Monday from 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School. Past, current and new singers welcome. For details phone 3900922 or 5384873.

CINEMA

Children's film
JAN 25 (6 pm), Jan 26 (10.30 am): Robin Hood is the title of a film which will be shown at the British Council, Mansouriya.

The animals tell their version of what really happened in Sherwood Forest, as the tale of the legendary English hero and his followers unfolds in this Walt Disney film. Duration: 80 minutes. Admission is free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

Kuwait Caledonians
FEB 2: The Caledonians will hold the Burns Night (Thursday) at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The guest from Scotland will be Jack Glenney. Tel: 5335082; 5332235; 3727691 ext. 253.

Kuwait Rondels
FEB 16: The Kuwait Rondels Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Tickets are now available. Tel: 5337597.

SOCIAL

Nirjar Get-together
JAN 18: All artists and organisers of Nirjar cultural group are requested to attend a get-together at 6.30 pm today at the Gaylord Restaurant (Farwaniya).

Bharathi Kalai Mandram
JAN 20: IAC, Fumaites. The Bharathi Kalai Mandram, a fine arts association of the Tamil-speaking community, will celebrate the Nehrucentenary and Pongal, a harvest festival. A variety show featuring classical dances, drama and music will be held. For entry passes call 5331561.

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SPORTS

Football Tournament
JAN 20: Rising Stars seven-a-side one-day football tournament will be held at Al Sour Ground. Teams wishing to participate can contact Lawrence — Tel: 4832409/2657293; Eric — Tel: 3262800/5650466.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 Cartoon serial
9.45 World News via Satellite
10.00 Imraa Fi Duwamah: Arabic serial; part 5. Starring: Aida Abdul Aziz, Salah Zulfikar, Tayseer Fahmi, Mohsin Sarhan

10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
11.00 Saghira Al Hayat: local Arabic serial; part 5; starring Hayat Al Fahad, Zainab Al Dabi, Hind Kamel, Dawood Hussein, Mohammad Sayyed Essa

12.00 The Illusions of David Copperfield
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran/Close-down

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Bambo: animated feature
5.15 Eureka
6.00 Liqa Fi Al Zakira: "Abdullah Bin Mazhar." Historical serial.



Ben Kingsley plays Gandhi, tonight on KTV2.

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial
6.30 Prestige: "Big Henry." A child is forced to lead a harsh life on a farm.

7.30 Mutual of Omaha: a programme on wildlife

8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: local programme

8.55 Matlock: "The Rat Pack." Matlock is put in a difficult position by a client accused of murder.

9.40 The Cosby Show: Dr Huxtable becomes a plumber... Comedy

10.10 Feature Film: "Gandhi". Starring: Ben Kingsley and Candice Bergen. 1982 production, directed by Richard Attenborough.

12.00 News Summary/ followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Twinkle Twinkle Lucky Stars
Starring: Jackie Chan
Al Salmiya
Funoon centre
Performance

Al Hamra
The Come Back
Starring: Holly Palance, Jack Jones
Drive-In
Yom Mar Yom Helu (Arabic)

Al Firdous
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muneer
Al Firdous
Paap Ko Jalaakar Raakh Kar Doonga (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Starring: Anita Raj, Govinda, Farah
Fahad Open-Air
Fakira (Hindi)

Al Fahad
Al Fatnat Al Makalat (Arabic)
Al Jahra
Fire Back
Granada

Al Fahad
Snake in Eagles Shadow
Salaikhat
Athimamappuram (Malayalam)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Jandol Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Noora Pharmacy
Othman St.

Salmiya and Rumailhiya
Al Sima Pharmacy
Baghdad St.
Fahad and Ahmed
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Sinan St.

Jleeb Al Shiyookh
Al Salamah Pharmacy
Qitah 2, Main St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

PRAYERS
Fajr 5.20 am
Zuhr 11.59
Asr 2.55 pm
Maghreb 5.14
Isha 6.36

Air-India holds reception

AIR-INDIA, Kuwait, recently held a reception for its staff and travel agents at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Above: Air-India staff with some of the travel agents

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

EAT to live, and do not live to eat — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

Divisions plaguing Afghan guerrillas

By Denholm Barnetson

ASADABAD, Afghanistan. (UPI) — White or green flags fluttering from burned-out buildings illustrate the deep divisions plaguing Asadabad, where rebel factions have established rival governments since taking over the provincial capital three months ago.

No armed clashes have taken place so far, but the dispute within the ranks of Islamic guerrillas fighting to oust the Soviet-backed Afghan government portends other power struggles once the Soviets and the Kabul regime of President Najibullah are no longer there to unite the guerrilla factions.

Asadabad, 120 miles (190 km) northeast of Kabul in Kunar province, was abandoned by government forces and occupied by rebels Oct 11, becoming one of the first provincial capitals to fall under guerrilla control since Moscow began withdrawing its troops May 15. The pullout is to be completed by Feb 15 under UN-mediated accords.

But within a few weeks of taking over Asadabad both the seven-party Pakistan-based Afghan rebel alliance and the rival Ahl-e-Hadith guerrilla group, which recently gained in strength due to Arab funding, had formed provincial governments.

Damaged Asadabad, which had a pre-war population of 30,000 but is now occupied almost entirely by guerrillas, lies in a picturesque valley of the Hindu Kush Mountains. It has been severely damaged by years of rocket attacks by the resistance and bombings by government forces following the rebel seizure.

Dogs scavenge for scraps in rubble of mud and stone buildings. A few makeshift stores sell fruit, nuts, clothing and military gear lifted from dead Soviet and Afghan soldiers at the war front.

A white flag on one rooftop indicates the building is held by Ahl-e-Hadith supporters, while a green flag shows allegiance to the seven-party alliance. Most of the banners are white.

Both sides have appointed their own governors and established judicial systems ready to administer harsh Islamic justice, a police force, schools, as well as "government departments" of finance, transport, agriculture and municipal affairs.

Both claim the support of a majority of the population of Kunar Province, which lies in a rugged mountainous region where the Afghan civil war began in 1978. Hostilities appear inevitable.

"This is our land. We must be allowed to control our land," said Wali Ullah Ghulam, an official of Ahl-e-Hadith. The group adheres to the Wahabist sect of Islam that strictly follows the Holy Quran and is practiced widely in Saudi Arabia. The sect's few followers in Afghanistan are concentrated in Kunar.

The Ahl-e-Hadith was formed in 1983 as a splinter group of the powerful Hezbe-Islami rebel organization of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. But as non-member of the seven-party alliance it receives none of the US and Chinese weapons that are funnelled through Pakistan to the guerrillas.

Instead, it is backed by rich Arab nations apparently seeking to promote Wahabism in Afghanistan. Unlike other Afghan guerrilla groups, it pays its fighters a salary.

However, diplomats and analysts in Pakistan say the Ahl-e-Hadith is unlikely to gain support throughout the country. "They're trying to buy influence," said a Western diplomat. "I don't discount the danger, but it will be hard to pull it off."

Co-operation A military co-operation agreement between the party and the alliance shows the Ahl-e-Hadith has 1,862 fighters in Kunar to 1,740 for the seven-party grouping.

The combined force is threatening the Nangarhar provincial capital of Jalalabad, 55 miles (90 km) south of Asadabad.

"Jalalabad will be taken soon by our fighters, and we will set up government there," said Ghulam, a short, bearded man in his 30s. "If the alliance won't let us, then there will be two governments there as well."

Monsieur Ghulam Haider, the deputy governor of Kunar from Ahl-e-Hadith, says the party has proposed a coalition government with the alliance, but is insisting on taking the governor's post.

"We offered to form a coalition. They refused," said Haider, an elderly man with his long beard dyed bright orange with henna in accordance with a Muslim custom.

Chinese are "similar" to Vietnam, says Le Dang Doanh, a government adviser in Hanoi. "Now we are making a deep study of the Chinese economic experience, which is more advanced than the Soviets' in using market forces. ... I'm afraid there will be great strains on our ties with the Soviets, but for now we still need their help."

Vietnamese officials describe a change in their Soviet relations as an attempt to broaden international relations, without breaking bonds with an old friend.

Since 1986, open criticism of Soviet goods and aid has become common. The latest complaint came in November from the Army newspaper, which stated that Vietnamese workers in the Soviet Union receive 17 to 19 times less than South Koreans working in the Middle East. "We should not allow the situation of unfairness to go on any longer," it added.

Uncomfortable Vietnamese officials are also uncomfortable with Gorbachev's opening a debate on the Stalin period. "You cannot implement economic reforms in the middle of a civil war," Doanh said. "De-Stalinization can be destabilizing, a tragic deformation for socialism."

Analysts in the West have long looked for Viet-Soviet differences and, lately, for evidence of pressure from Moscow on Hanoi for a quick pullout of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. The major source of antagonism, however, has been Gorbachev's drive to lessen Soviet aid to Vietnam by demanding less corruption, more efficient use of aid, and economic arrangements with "mutual benefit." Some 1,300 Vietnamese officials are being sent to Soviet management schools.

Endless scandal dominates the scene

Lots of money changes hands in Japanese politics

By Daniel Sneider

TOKYO: "Japanese politics cost lots of money." That simple statement by veteran political insider Shigeo Hayasaka explains the seemingly endless corruption scandal that has dominated the political scene for the last six months.

The so-called "Recruit scandal" has touched an amazing array of people, from top leaders of the ruling party to well-known businessmen and even some senior bureaucrats. All of them bought unlisted shares of Recruit Cosmos, a real estate development firm, before the company went public. Most sold at a healthy profit shortly after.

In the Recruit case, Hirumasa Ezoe, founder of the Recruit group, offered key leaders a sure-fire deal. But behind one man's attempt to buy influence lies a system that virtually cements a link between money and politics, political analysts say.

Politicians need enormous funds simply to stay in office. Businessmen, farm organizations, and others seek access to

the powerful axis of bureaucrats and politicians that determines policy. They win that access with money.

The phenomenon is so well known, and even accepted, that the Japanese have a name for it — kozo oshoku or "structural corruption." Though Japanese are mostly cynical about ever getting rid of structural corruption, the sheer scale of the Recruit case has been shocking.

The Recruit case "is just the tip of the iceberg," says Hayasaka. He should know. Until a few years ago, Hayasaka was the personal secretary to Japan's most infamous political boss, former premier Kakuei Tanaka.

Expenses Individual politicians, Hayasaka says, are driven by the constant need to raise money — for daily expenses and for huge war chests to fight for re-election. But there is a "gap" between the costs of politics and legitimate income. The need to fill that gap, he argues, is the "biggest reason for structural corruption."

Take a typical four-term ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member of the Diet (parliament).

His monthly operating expenses total 10 million yen (about \$80,000). About 2.5 million yen goes to pay a staff of 15 aides. Another 800,000 yen is spent on attending weddings and other parties that require customary gifts of 10,000 yen. Office expenses come to 2 million yen. The remainder — about \$40,000 a month — funds the lavish winning-and-dining of guests that is crucial to building personal relationships here.

At the same time, the politician must raise money for his re-election. This can cost at least 200 to 300 million yen for everything from fliers to drinking parties with local campaign organizers.

If the Dietman strictly followed the law, his income couldn't come close to these costs. The state funds only a small office with two aides, limited travel to the home district and certain mailing costs. The law limits a candidate to spending only 15 million yen (about \$120,000) on elections. It restricts organizations to a donation of no more than 1.5 million yen (\$12,000) to each candidate.

As a result, says LDP leader and former Trade Minister Michio Watanabe, politicians "look for some kind of loophole." The preferred method, he says, is to form multiple support organizations, each of which can receive donations for the candidate. Top politicians, such as Prime Minister Noboru Takeuchi, have organizations with thousands of members, each paying hefty membership fees.

Fund-raising parties are numerous, and a single one can yield as much as 50 million yen (about \$400,000). Companies regularly instruct their employees to buy tickets, although only a fraction of the ticket holders actually attend the party.

The soaring Tokyo stock market has become a favored source of money. Politicians set up paper companies for stock speculation, often using the names of friends and relatives. They are aided by stock deals like the one offered by Recruit or by insider tips. Before an election, brokerages are said to help politicians by deliberately pushing up the value of so-called "political stocks."

Finally politicians "receive under-the-table commissions from corporations or other organizations" for favours, says Hayasaka.

The higher a politician rises, the more his expenses rise and the more he gets tied into this cycle. Political leaders parcel out money to their younger followers in exchange for loyalty. Hayasaka reveals that Tanaka provided at least 30 to 50 million yen to each of his 134 faction members for elections. Some received as much as 100 million yen (about \$800,000). "There were no receipts," he says. "Those members really thanked him with tears in their eyes."

Caught

Ultimately, Tanaka got caught in the most spectacular corruption case in post-war politics — the Lockheed scandal. He was arrested, in 1976, along with 16 others, for taking bribes to convince the Ministry of Transport and All Nippon Airways to buy Lockheed aircraft. Tanaka did not lose his power until incapacitated by health problems in 1985.

The remarkably stable Japanese system rests on a trinity of

power formed by the elite bureaucracy, the ruling LDP, and major business organizations.

Hayasaka, who reportedly also received Recruit shares, was the desire for access to the power elite as a key to the scandal. Recruit founder Ezoe was a "business genius," says Hayasaka. "But from the point of view of Japanese economic leaders, he was an outsider. He went hurriedly to become an insider." Ezoe's stock options were not illegal, as long as he did not receive specific favours in return. Only one arrest for bribery, of a local official, has been made so far, but the Tokyo Prosecutors Office is expected to spring further indictments.

The LDP is now trying to calm public outrage, and has set up a special commission to recommend political reforms.

Hayasaka argues that limits on donations should be raised to more realistic levels and stricter reporting be enforced. If the costs of politics are not dealt with, he concludes, "then there will be another Recruit case in the future."

The Christian Science Monitor



Eastern Europe beginning to regain an identity

By Eric Bourne

VIENNA: One of the most intriguing aspects of this era of perestroika (restructuring) and improved East-West relations is the way in which Eastern Europe is beginning to regain an identity.

Soon after World War II, the Iron Curtain divided Europe, and the East became an amorphous conglomerate of countries. It later became known only for local national explosions at approximately 12-year intervals.

Following these periods of unrest, all reverted to regional conformity with the Soviet Union. So it was after Hungary's uprising (1956); the Prague Spring (1968); and, though not so completely, Solidarity's defeat in Poland in 1981.

Then — when everything in Eastern Europe was stagnating — Mikhail Gorbachev entered, signalling a "new deal" in international affairs. This development led to easier relations between the superpowers. It also opened up a new path to individualism for East Europeans.

Last summer, Hungary revealed that the Soviet military presence in its country was under review. Most Western reactions dismissed the idea that even Gorbachev was ready to withdraw troops from Hungary, without some Western quid pro quo.

But Hungary appears to have known what was going on well before Gorbachev's announcement that six divisions were to be removed from East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.

Why not also from Poland? The simple explanation is that Poland — the corridor through which Germany has twice attacked the Soviet Union — is in a different category of Soviet military thinking.

In Poland's present unsettled situation, Polish forces, though the best equipped and trained of the East European armies, could not be relied upon alone. Yet Poland might well be brought into the picture, as Eastern Europe continues to look less like a faceless forward area of the Soviet military and economic system and returns to the map of Europe as a stable region with differing national interests.

Due regard for Soviet security interests is, of course, Gorbachev's sine qua non for such independence. Hungary is already the case par excellence. This year it is taking a big leap forward toward a pluralist, democratised political system.

It is also calling boldly for fundamental change in Comecon, the East bloc's trading community. It says: Either Comecon remains stuck with its outworn concept of "mutual aid" or it turns itself into genuine East bloc "common market."

Budapest's attitude vis a vis the Soviets in essential ideology and in terms of security remain unchanged. But no state within the East bloc has presented so clear a national image since the Yugoslavs broke out of the bloc in 1948.

Poland, at last, seems to be moving cautiously in the same direction. A party Central Committee meeting on Dec 20-21 removed six "conservatives" from the ruling Politburo and replaced them with known "liberals" and young reformers.

Some of the speeches at this meeting revealed the strength of the hard-line opposition to the "constructive opposition" Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski has been appealing for. But the leadership, nonetheless, announced an immediate re-evaluation of its position on Solidarity. Significantly, Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski called his old antagonist, Lech Walesa a "political realist," as though the leader of the outlawed trade union had never been the "unperson" with whom the government disdained to talk for seven years.

For the time being, East Germany and Romania still talk at perestroika. The Czechoslovak regime, thus far just as reluctant, is now feeling the pinch and necessity to make some kind of start.

Vasil Bilak, a leading anti-Dubcek hawk in 1968, has stepped down. His successor as party ideologist is cast in the same mold. Spokesmen still scoff at rehabilitation of the lesser folk purged after 1968, let alone of Alexander Dubcek himself. But, in politics, "never" is a boomerang word as Warsaw's U-turn on Walesa shows. Human rights gatherings have begun to be tolerated. And a new premier has begun to act like a reformer.

Conversion It is not a case of Prague's sudden conversion to perestroika and glasnost (openness). There is another consideration which, finally, all the East Europeans must take into account.

The Hungarians openly admit that the European Economic Community's plan to turn its common market into a single market by 1992 set alarm bells ringing in Budapest. No doubt among Prague's back-room economists too. Hence Hungary's accelerated drive for an efficient market economy in order not to find itself cut off from this single European market when it comes about.

The Christian Science Monitor.

Shiite feud splits families, threatens Syria-Iran alliance

By Mohammed Salam

BEIRUT, (AP) — The battle between rival Shiite Muslim factions for dominance of Lebanon's largest sect has pitted brother against brother, father against son, and jeopardizes the strategic alliance between their masters, Iran and Syria.

Amid the carnage of Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war between Christians and Muslims and the many bloody clashes by feuding militias, the Shiite conflict has split Lebanon's largest single sect down the middle.

Shiite sources said many families are divided, with some men fighting for the fundamentalist Iranian-backed Hezbollah, and some for the secular, pro-Syrian Amal militia.

More than 500 people, many of them civilians, have died and more than 1,500 others have been wounded since intra-Shiite rivalry erupted into open warfare last April.

In Beirut's teeming southern slums, a Shiite bastion largely devastated by war, posters of Ayatollah Khomeini and Imam Mousa Sadr, Amal's charismatic founder who mysteriously disappeared in Libya in 1978, hang side by side on bullet-pocked walls, indicating a unity among the 1 million Shiites that does not exist.

Control For years they have struggled for control of the Shiite community, which is now one of the most powerful in Lebanon after decades of being downtrodden and exploited by the now-eclipsed Sunni sect.

Hezbollah, the cutting edge of Khomeini's Islamic revolution abroad, seeks to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon.

It has built a social, educational and welfare network funded by Tehran, which has been pumping an estimated \$5 million a month into Hezbollah's efforts.

offers. The support has wooed many Shiites from Amal.

The more nationalist Amal, armed by Syria and led by Lebanese Justice Minister Nabih Berri, wants to reunite the divided land under a multi-sect government in which the Muslim majority will share power equally with the traditionally dominant Christians.

"Any Muslim who willingly abides by the rules of a non-Muslim state is a traitor," says a Hezbollah slogan daubed on walls in the south Beirut slums.

Hezbollah is considered the parent organization for Shiite fundamentalist factions who hold most of the 15 Western hostages kidnapped in Lebanon.

"Traitors are those who kidnap foreigners and carry out acts of terrorism all over the world to serve Iran's interests at the expense of Lebanon's Shiites," said Amal's security chief in the southern port of Tyre, who identified himself only as Hamza.

Lebanese and Western intelligence agencies also blame Hezbollah zealots for the 1983 suicide bombings of US and French troops in Lebanon, in which hundreds of people were killed, as well as other terrorist attacks in the Middle East and Western Europe.

"All Lebanon's Shiites are branded terrorists because of such acts," Hamza said. "Many Lebanese Shiites have been deported from foreign countries because of this."

Amal drove Hezbollah out of the Tyre region and most of south Lebanon in April in a crackdown that followed the Feb 17 kidnapping of US Marine Lt Col William Higgins near Tyre.

The following month, the fundamentalists, trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in the Bekaa valley of east Lebanon, seized large chunks of Amal territory in Beirut's southern slums.

They have repeatedly clashed since then, despite efforts by Iranian and Syrian mediators to bring about a ceasefire.

Postponement of regional summit Managua, (Reuters): The elusive quest for peace in Central America, where about 100,000 people have died in guerrilla wars this decade, has suffered a further reverse with the postponement of a regional summit next weekend.

To Central Americans numbed by years of hollow political gestures and abortive peace plans, the decision by the region's presidents not to meet in El Salvador came as no surprise.

But the decision is tinged with irony, as the main force behind delaying the meeting was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel peace prize and built a world reputation for his efforts to bring the bickering nations of Central America together.

Syria and Iran to cool tempers to prevent straining their often uneasy alliance.

Several Amal leaders have been assassinated. Among them was Amal's south Lebanon commander, Daoud Daoud, and two senior lieutenants killed by unidentified gunmen as the officers drove through south Beirut last October. Amal blamed Hezbollah.

The fundamentalists accuse Amal of preventing them from carrying out the "holy duty of jihad (Arabic for holy war) to liberate Palestine from Zionist occupation."

"Jihad to liberate the Holy City of Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine is the duty of every Muslim," Hezbollah's weekly magazine Al-Ahbad said in a recent editorial.

Amal believes that the "liberation of Palestine is a collective duty of all Arabs and Muslims," said Abu Hassan Qobeissi, Amal's security commander in south Lebanon.

Amal simply cannot carry out this duty on behalf of the Arab and Islamic nations," he said at his headquarters in the hilltop village of Zifra, 25 miles (40 kilometres) northeast of Tyre.

"Hezbollah will not be allowed back into the south to fire a missile into northern Israel every now and provoke the Israelis into demolishing our villages and towns with their planes."

Qobeissi said. "Such irresponsible acts are far from being jihad."

Amal's main military objective is limited to driving the Israelis out of their self-proclaimed "security zone," a strip of Lebanese border territory running from the Mediterranean coast to Mount Hermon they have occupied since 1985.

Before the latest battles erupted, Amal had been reorganizing its 6,000-strong militia into a "regular force like an army," the movement's chief spokesman, Mohammed Obedi, said in his plush office in West Beirut.

Quest for peace in Central America suffers setback about," a senior diplomat said. But while Nicaragua remains the focus of international attention, diplomats say Honduras is most fearful about its Salvadoran border where clashes between Honduran troops and leftist guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front have been on the rise.

El Salvador, which has become a cornerstone of Washington's Central American policy and receives more than a million dollars a day in US military and economic aid, diplomats say the presence of an international observer team could clamp the style of the highly influential armed forces.

Summit El Salvador has proposed instead that the monitoring of Central American peace efforts should be conducted by a group of eminent figures from the region. But it was nevertheless anxious for the proposed summit to be held there. President Jose Napoleon Duarte is dying of cancer, and with elections in March that could bring the defeat of his Christian Democratic Party, he saw the holding of such a meeting in his capital as a fitting finale to his five years in office. The Guatemalans, too, see Costa Rica's decision to postpone the summit as a disappointment.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1520 — King Christian II of Denmark and Norway defeats Swedes at Lake Asunden and subsequently conquers Sweden.
- 1701 — Brandenburg's Frederick III is crowned Frederick I, king of Prussia.
- 1913 — Greek and Turkish naval forces battle off Tenedos Isle.
- 1915 — Japan issues secret ultimatum to China regarding rights in Shantung and Manchuria.
- 1918 — Russian constitutional assembly opens in Petrograd.
- 1952 — Anti-British riots break out in Egypt.
- 1963 — Government of Charles de Gaulle in France insists that Britain be barred from European Common Market.
- 1968 — United States and Soviet Union agree on draft treaty to control nuclear weapons.
- 1973 — United States and North Vietnam announce that negotiators will meet to complete text of peace pact.
- 1976 — France expels at least 40 Soviet officials on grounds they have worked as spies.
- 1986 — Fierce fighting in South Yemen's capital city of Aden interrupts evacuation of foreigners.
- 1987 — Media representatives from 34 nations, meeting in London, call for concerted action against censorship, including "hot line" for journalists under threat.
- 1988 — Loyalist troops in Argentina launch artillery and infantry assault on northeastern Army compound held by renegade officer.

By Kathy Cuddihy

FOR me, travelling seems to be a cyclical activity. Not "seasonal" but cyclical, involving several stages of experience.

The first phase represented the common youthful phenomenon of having plenty of time but little money.

Years ago (far too many of them) I made my way around the world in the manner in which I believed real travelling should be done: on a one-way ticket to any particular destination, and with no time restrictions. This lack of commitment left me completely free to impulsively extend or abbreviate visits, depending on the mood of the moment. I thrived on the wonderful, exciting feeling of not knowing what the next day would bring.

Enjoying the superiority of youth, I viewed with disdain all those "tame" travellers who did nothing more intrepid on their trips than stay in five-star hotels, eat in classy restaurants and see the sights from the sterile comfort of an airconditioned bus. Real travellers would never succumb to such cossetting. Real travellers would live like the locals and make every effort to familiarize themselves with more than the tourist spots.

I usually found it difficult to understand people who didn't

Journey through time

subscribe to my fanatic philosophy. In those days, travelling on a rickety bus with chickens and other foul smells for companions was the height of "real" living. Ditto for eating "interesting" meals in cheap cafes. Of course, I was the first to admit that the waiting room of a remote railway station in the Australian outback might not be my preferred choice of overnight accommodation, especially when I had nothing but empty mail sacks to keep me warm. And sure a sandy beach in Greece felt a lot different as a bed than as a daytime playground. But if this was the price of adventure, then I was happy to pay it.

During the second phase of my travels, my cash flow became more amenable but a busy schedule of responsibilities seldom allowed extended journeys. The more I experienced luxury travel, the more I came to believe that the trade-off between impetuous independence and financial freedom wasn't so inequitable after all. Sure, being out on the open road at the crack of dawn was invigorating...but only if the weather put on a decent show. Waiting at airports isn't a lot of fun, but it

beats walking for miles in the cold or rain because no one wants a soggy hitch-hiker in their car.

Up-market travel also ensured that my food intake increased in both volume and variety. Rather than a steady diet of fruit, cheese, sliced meat, French bread, and an occasional bowl of thick soup, the selection expanded to include just about anything my cravings called for. In gorging myself with gourmet goodies, my immense satisfaction more than made up for the probable nutritional shortfalls.

While I maintain a great admiration for "real" travellers, I can't say I envy them. I've grown beyond a yearning to experience life in their terms. I've also grown beyond relishing true hardship—I get enough of that at home every day in trying to outlast and outwit my children.

Nowadays my idea of roughing it is having to stay in a three-star hotel, or dragging the kids around museums, or compromising on lunch and ending up at McDonald's instead of Maxim's. Yes, I've become "soft," but it feels good, darn good. Besides, I feel that I put in enough miles during my Cycle One

travels to more than qualify me for lots of pampering during Cycle Two.

As the years go by, I realize, with perhaps a little relief, that Cycle Three probably isn't all that far away.

Cycle Three is the reward for life-long travellers who have endured the austerity of Cycle One and survived the excesses of Cycle Two. Cycle Three represents that period when the enthusiastic globetrotter can afford the best of both cycles: the time to seek out life's adventures (albeit the more cultivated ones) and the finances to enjoy them.

After a long truce, I look forward to an on-going series of one-way tickets to exotic destinations...all of which come well-equipped with luxury hotels, gourmet restaurants, and comfortable transport from which to view the local sights.

Of course, I'll no doubt have to suffer the disdain of a few Cycle One travellers as they energetically go about experiencing their "real" experiences at a far deeper level than "tame" travellers like myself.

Yes, Cycle Three demands concessions, but if comfort and convenience are the costs...then count me in.

Do you need liberating?

Have women won equality — or have they made a mistake by letting their superiority slip away? This quiz may set you thinking...

By Bev Gilligan

THE women's movement free the fairer sex from the kitchen sink, promote equal pay and prospects and leave women better off? Or did it merely erode the rights and privileges women have enjoyed for centuries? This quiz will reveal just how much of a liberated woman you really are...

1. The local nursery insists that boys and girls spend equal time playing with dolls and cars. What is your reaction?
- a. Bravo! Those kids won't grow up with stereotyped ideas of a "woman's place."
- b. It's an interesting experiment, but you have your reservations.
- c. What absolutely rubbish — teachers like that are not only mad, they're dangerous.
- d. It might sound odd now, but no doubt we'll take it for granted in years to come.

2. Hell, they're only kids.
2. A man you are attracted to asks you out to dinner. When the bill arrives you:

- a. Lower your eyes modestly and wait for him to pay?
- b. Suggest going dutch?
- c. Snatch it out of his hand and insist on paying?
- d. Fumble for your cheque book?

3. You're introduced to a man at a party and he kisses your hand. Do you:
- a. Pull your hand away and look at him as if he's got leprosy?
- b. Kiss his hand?
- c. Blush enchantingly and murmur how you love old-fashioned manners?
- d. Smile delightedly and engage him in conversation?

4. Most of your correspondence is addressed to you as Ma. Does this:
- a. Please you enormously — it's about time the sexist terms Miss and Mrs were dropped?
- b. Make you furious, you want everyone to know you've lan-



ded your man and are (smirk) a Mrs?

- a. Not bother you one way or the other?
- d. Think even Ms is unnecessary — plain Janet Brown is fine with you?

5. You are staggering home with the shopping. Your (male) neighbor catches you up and offers to help you carry it. Do you:

- a. Smack him in the chops with one of your shopping bags and say you are capable of carrying a few groceries?
- b. Accept gratefully — you'd do the same for him?
- c. Offload the lot into his arms? If he's daft enough to ask he might as well suffer.
- d. Thank him, but tell him you'll manage?

6. Give him the heaviest bag — he's bigger and stronger than you?
6. You discover a colleague is being paid twice as much as you for the same job. He has a wife and four children. You are single. Do you:

- a. Think it right and proper that

a man with a family should earn more than a single person?

- b. Make discreet enquiries about your position with the equal opportunities office?
- c. Storm into the manager and have a mammoth tantrum?
- d. Phone the local paper with this blatant example of inequality?

7. What is your opinion of role reversal?

- a. It's essential in a 20th century marriage.
- b. It's demeaning for a man.
- c. It's OK if the wife has a better job.
- d. Every couple should suit themselves.

8. Do you think men and women should share child care and household chores?
- a. It depends on who brings home the pay cheque.
- b. Hundred per cent.
- c. If the man is a breadwinner,

- e. You wouldn't like it in your marriage.
9. The man you are with leaps out of his chair every time you leave the room. Do you:
- a. Tell him to stop acting like jack-in-the-box?
- b. Ask him if he thinks you are going to do a bunk?
- c. Say you appreciate his manners, but it really isn't necessary?
- d. Rather enjoy the spectacle of a man making himself look ridiculous?

10. What is your opinion of the Women's Movement?
- a. Its militant feminists are an embarrassment to all decent self-respecting women.
- b. We're still got a long way to go.
- c. You have a grudging admiration for their achievements.
- d. It's done more harm than good.
- e. You ain't seen nothing yet.

What your score means

0-10: Boy, do you need liberating! You're the original, swivelling, grovelling doormat. You are the type who loves her helpless "little woman" role, who flutters her eyelashes desperately when she drops her hankie. No doubt you think landing a husband was your biggest achievement to date. What's the betting he dictates the colours and clothes you wear and keeps a tight rein on the housekeeping money.

11-21: The Women's Movement has had some influence on you, but you've got a long way to go. Stop thinking men are superior beings and get going on your own potential. A

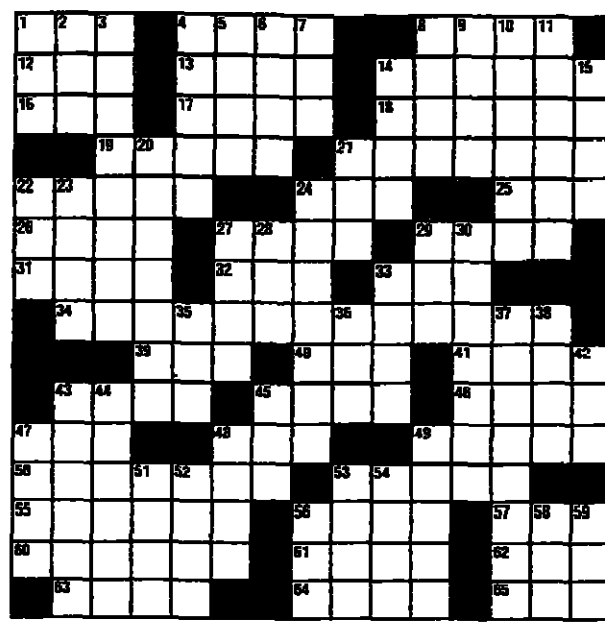
woman's place isn't only in the home, it's at work, on committees and even in Parliament. Centuries of conditioning are chaining you to what you think is a typical woman's role. Break that link and start being yourself.

22-32: You're a well balanced liberated woman of the world. And with your sense of humour, outgoing personality and strong identity you get the best of the old and the new. You're capable of being independent and enjoying it but you won't be ungracious when someone offers you his seat or opens a door. You like men and women and are equally at home in either's company.

You're probably married to a man who shares your views on equal opportunities and pay. He finds you a refreshing and exciting partner.

33-44: You're the sort who gives the women's movement a bad name. A bra-burning, pad-mouthing militant who needs a few lessons in the gentle art of appreciating others. Consideration, care and concern are not words you're familiar with. You look on all men as the enemy, and most of your sisters as pathetic and disappointing. Snap out of your "angry young woman" phase and start enjoying life and all it has to offer.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | Down | Across |
| 1 With it | 1 Female lobster | 50 Aquarius |
| 4 Server's edge on the court | 2 Janis of Rock | 53 Dovetail part |
| 8 Fly | 3 Attendance | 55 Turkish inn |
| 12 Musical talent | 4 Circa | 56 Roll's partner |
| 13 Springsteen, with "The" | 5 Way in | 57 Parrot |
| 14 Sweethearts | 6 "It" | 60 Property transfer |
| 16 Compass dir. | 7 Student gp. | 61 Rock star, e.g. |
| 17 Chaplin, nee O'Neill | 8 Pet's peeve | 62 letter |
| 18 Grayish green color | 9 Endure | 63 Fast time |
| 19 Jet | 10 Mrs. Marcos | 64 Double agent |
| 21 Rock stars, with "The" | 11 Hymn of praise | 65 Hot time, in Paris |
| 22 Anagram for alter | 12 At liberty | |
| 24 Del choice | 13 Part of a ticket order: Abbr. | |
| 25 Owing | 14 Rock star | |
| 26 Leo's pride | 15 Short farewell | |
| 27 Leg joint | 16 Electricity abbr. | |
| 29 Con game | 17 Cafe au | |
| 31 Snaps | 18 Products of the stars | |
| 32 List ender: Abbr. | 19 French military cap | |
| 33 Yippee! | 20 A degree | |
| 34 Caller's device | | |
| 38 Yalie | | |
| 40 Baseballer | | |
| 41 Guide | | |
| 42 Muse of history | | |
| 43 Terrapin | | |
| 45 Nice notion | | |
| 46 Opera heroine | | |
| 47 Literary collection | | |
| 48 Blubs | | |
| 49 "...the —" | | |

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

TIME TO CHANGE HORSES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 5
♥ 8 4
♦ K 10 7 4
♣ Q 10 9 3

WEST
♠ 7 4 3
♥ A Q 6
♦ 9 2
♣ A K J 8 7

EAST
♠ 9 8
♥ J 10 9 5 2
♦ 8 6 3
♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 6 2
♥ K 7 3
♦ A Q J 5
♣ 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

If you can see that the enemy won't permit you to adopt your preferred line, don't stubbornly persist with it. Search for a reasonable alternative.

Three no trump by South would have been an ironclad contract as the cards lie. Played by North, however, the defenders would have been able to collect five tricks with the lead of the jack of hearts. It was probably just as well, therefore, that South corrected to four spades, then displayed the necessary skill to bring the contract home. Note South's delicate game try of three hearts, the suit where he needed help.

West led the king of clubs, and

declarer realized that only his third heart was going to prove a problem—since West almost surely held the ace of hearts, declarer was resigned to two losers in the suit. His original idea was to ruff the third heart in dummy, but West scotched that plan by shifting to a trump.

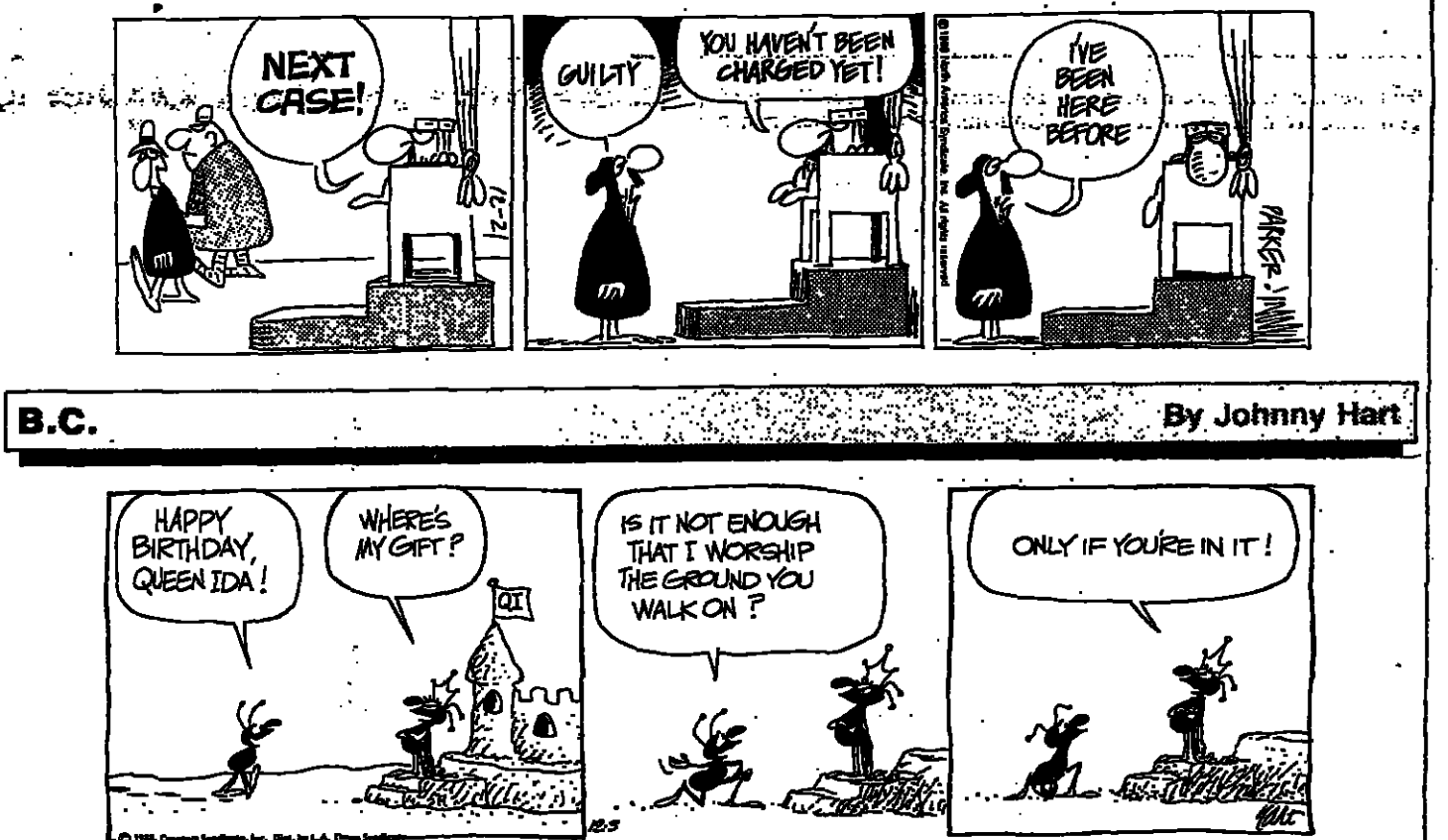
Now there was probably no way the defenders could be prevented from taking out all the table's trumps before declarer could score his ruff.

There was an elegant counter, and declarer found it. He drew all the outstanding trumps, then cashed the ace-queen of diamonds. Next, he overtook the jack of diamonds with the king and led the nine of clubs. When East could not, or did not, cover, declarer refrained from ruffing. Instead, he discarded a low heart, and West was trapped in an endplay. If he cashed the ace of hearts, he would set up declarer's king. If he led a low club, dummy's queen would win. So West tried the ace of clubs. Declarer ruffed, crossed to the table with the ten of diamonds and discarded a heart on the queen of clubs. He lost only one heart trick and two clubs.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will find it easier to make up your mind. You should not rely too much on your charm and ability to persuade. Do not try to do everything all at once. Be more forgiving.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should beware of being boastful or of making a promise that would be hard to keep. There is a danger of upsetting an old friend. Make sure you observe speed restrictions even if you are on the late side. Be polite.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

There will be plenty to do today and you should not try to do everything at once. Something you had feared will turn out only to have been a bad dream. Mars' better influence will help you to face the situation more calmly. Be diligent.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Do not be quite so fond of the sound of your own voice. Instead listen more to what others are saying. Venus' more favourable influence will help you to make the right decision. Be frugal.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Venus' more favourable influence will help you to recognise an obstacle before it badly impedes your progress. You should try to have a good laugh at yourself. Make sure you do not fall foul of your friends. Be objective.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should not allow a little personal success to go to your head. Concentrate on essentials but do not altogether ignore some less important details. Try to exercise just a bit more self-control and discipline. Be magnanimous.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You will be tempted to spend more than you can afford and should avoid doing so. Something you have found it hard to understand will become much clearer to you. Do not place too much reliance on good luck. Be generous.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will tend to tire rather more easily so try to get what has to be done first. You should beware of jumping to conclusions or deciding on the spur of the moment. Try to keep things more simple. Be cordial.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You should not turn your back on change, instead welcome it. You will be able to make amends for something you have done slightly wrong. Make sure you do not allow your attention to wander. Be less aggressive.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will tend to be a little more nervous and should not take everything quite so seriously. However that does not mean becoming cynical or sceptical. Avoid too fatty or spicy a diet. Be sincere.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Mars' better influence will help you to recognise a not immediately apparent pitfall. Make sure you read a letter again before sending it. You should keep calm even in the face of provocation. Be tolerant.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will tend to be rather nervous and should do all you can to counteract this tendency. A little more patience will be needed to deal with a family problem. If you expect to have it all your own way will be disappointed. Be moderate.

Now add up your score to see whether you need liberating.

SCORING:				
	a	b	c	d
1.	4	3	0	2
2.	0	2	4	3
3.	4	2	0	1
4.	4	0	2	3
5.	4	2	3	1
6.	0	1	4	3
7.	4	0	3	2
8.	2	4	0	1
9.	1	3	2	4
10.	0	3	2	1

By Ben Macintyre

BY early spring the first Guardian Angels will be patrolling the London Underground, according to Curtis Sliwa, leader of the American vigilante organisation which has unofficially policed New York's subways and streets for the past 10 years.

The Angels, warmly approved of by late-night travellers, are heartily disliked by Mayor Ed Koch and the New York Police Department. Apart from irritation at their "amateur" status, they are a constant reminder of the inadequacy of conventional policing.

Following two fatal stabbings on the London Underground 10 days ago, the prediction that the Angels' distinctive red berets will soon be seen on the Tube may well produce, a similarly hostile response from British police.

"Forty or 50 people in Britain have already expressed interest in joining," Sliwa said at his headquarters on 14th Street in Manhattan, "and 18 are now undergoing training in London."

The Guardian Angels have spread across the US, with chapters in 60 cities. They claim a membership of more than 5,000 of whom some 350 operate in New York.

Expanded

The group has recently expanded out of the subways to take on some of America's drug and crime-ridden urban neighbourhoods, often at the request of local merchants.

The group describes itself as an unarmed, non-violent, non-profit-making citizens' organisation which fights crime using only "visual deterrence," walkie-talkies and, if necessary, forcible citizen's arrests.

The Angels' ethos is as much about looking good as doing good: their para-military uniforms usually consist of specially-designed T-shirts, studded berets festooned with animal tails, red jackets, badges, buckles and military-style boots.

"Our philosophy is much more in line with the British mentality of 'no weapons' in a world of dope-smoking, Uzi-toting killing machines," said Sliwa, 34. "So we have to act primarily as a visual deterrent."

The debate over the Angels has raged ever since 1979, when Curtis Sliwa turned from litter collection to do-it-yourself law enforcement.

The popularity of the Angels and their swelling numbers are a standing indictment of the New York Police, and Mayor Koch and his Police Commissioner, Ben Ward, have consistently characterised the organisation as an intimidating lynch mob.

"We are a permanent embarrassment to them," said Sliwa, or "Rock" as he is known to the Angels fraternity. "The Police Commissioner can't cite a single neighbourhood where he has beaten the crack

US Guardian Angels train UK vigilantes

Warmly approved of by late-night travellers but heartily disliked by New York Mayor Ed Koch and the police department, vigilante organisation has unofficially policed New York's subway and Streets for the past 10 years. They may soon be seen on the London Underground.



Do-it-yourself law enforcement: a trio of New York Guardian Angels on duty in a subway in Britain.

side. We can't crack it," he was referring to the plague of cheap cocaine-based drugs that has swept this city in recent years.

According to Sliwa, the police here have repeatedly tried to prosecute the group for harassment but have so far been unsuccessful.

As he points out, their role involves handing suspects over

to the police. "If our relationship with the local cops was really bad we wouldn't be able to function."

Critics of the Guardian Angels argue that the response to increased crime should be more policing, not the privatisation of crime fighting.

But in cities such as New York, where police resources are stretched to breaking-point, the Angels say there are limits to

gerous and crime-ridden in the city, locals say the presence of the Guardian Angels has appreciably diminished the crime rate, while encouraging a greater police presence.

Whether heroes or just thugs by another name, seeing the Angels in action demonstrates how much they enjoy their work. It also illustrates the looseness with which they define "justifiable use of force" when making a citizen's arrest.

Driving to a meeting with Sliwa in downtown Manhattan, the driver of the Angels' van suddenly slammed on the brakes in the middle of busy Union Square and the three Guardian Angels passengers gave chase to a man dashing through the crowds.

Within seconds the suspected thief had been slammed against a nearby car and was held in a double arm-lock by two of them.

The arrest had taken perhaps 15 seconds. It took a further three minutes before the police arrived to take custody of the suspect, during which time the Angels regally accepted the plaudits of the rapidly-assembled crowd.

Back in the van, "Whacko," the Angel who had first caught up with the thief, recounted the events in minute and self-congratulatory detail.

"It was only after I got him that I thought 'Wow, man, this guy might have knife.' You get like that," said "Whacko," 21, whose real name is Collins Pompey.

The Guardian Angels survive on a diet of donated food and pure machismo. Many readily admit being in it for "the look," and for the fact that being an Angel provides an instant cachet with the opposite sex.

But the organisation also provides an outlet for the aspirations of groups which otherwise might only have found expression through the easily-accessible world of drugs and crime.

Most Guardian Angels are from poor, black or Hispanic neighbourhoods where the drugs and crime they now combat are part and parcel of daily life.

"They are safer in a group of Angels than living in their own drug-infested neighbourhoods," said Sliwa.

The Angels' leader is confident that the British chapter of the Guardian Angels will be both popular and effective.

The London Underground is under siege and chronically under-policed, he said. "Two fatal stabbings in a day is high even by New York standards."

The nucleus of the British Guardian Angels is undergoing a two-month initiation schedule in London involving physical, psychological and even legal training before they venture on to the platforms.

David Edmonds, 35, a Guardian Angel from London who is co-ordinating the setting up of the British chapter, refused to reveal the location of the London headquarters.

French language unites immigrants in Quebec

By George Tombs

MONTREAL: It's story time in the first grade at Madeleine de Vercheres Elementary School in Montreal's working-class East End. The pupils sit cross-legged on the floor. They have names like Philippe Dan-Ba Phu-Viet, Jonathan Morales Calmet, Jean-Guy Ouellette, and Sonia Melo Linhares.

Like many other classes in Canada's second-largest city, this class is a mosaic of ethnic origins. About 35 per cent of the Vercheres School's 563 pupils are from immigrant backgrounds. At home, they speak a number of different languages: Arabic, Turkish, Greek, Spanish, Portuguese, Creole, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Chinese. But at school they speak the official language of Quebec: French.

"The children speak French well after about 10 months," says Haitian-born teacher Mireille Metellus. "When their parents come to parent-teacher meetings, the children are now serving as interpreters."

Ms. Metellus specializes in helping children from low-income families overcome learning disabilities. She says the cross-cultural situation contributes to such problems. Asian and Haitian children are brought up to respect the absolute authority of the teacher, for example, whereas native Quebec children tend to challenge that authority.

"A child will get one kind of training at home," she says, "and another at school. That's where the behavioural problems start. The child will say to his mother, 'Why do you tell me I can't do something, when my teacher says I can?'"

One man's meat is another man's poison — or so it may seem in Quebec, a linguistic island of 6.5 million people, most of them French speakers, that stands in an ocean of 250 million English-speaking North Americans. Quebecers both revel in and suffer from their unique status.

For much of its history, Quebec has been characterized by its cultural isolation, its Roman Catholic faith, and its exceptional birthrate. But since 1960, the province, once a modern, secular, industrialized society, its population still accounts for 25 per cent of all Canadians. But in the process of modernization, the province's birthrate has plummeted to the level of Denmark's and West Germany's.

Immigrants

Thus, the faces of immigrants are becoming more noticeable here. Over the last decade, Quebec has admitted an average of 19,035 immigrants a year — 17.2 per cent of the Canadian total.

"If we continue to have so few children," says Jacques Henripin, professor of demography at the University

of Montreal, "and replace the children who aren't born with immigrants, the French-speaking majority of Quebec could disappear in a century or two."

Any talk of the disappearance of this apparently prosperous society might seem alarmist. But in Quebec, gloomy demographic predictions make headlines. The province has struggled for survival since the colonial period, going so far as to contemplate independence from Canada. While the independence option was ultimately rejected, a profound fear continues to gnaw at many French-speaking politicians, journalists, and intellectuals in Quebec: a fear of empty cradles and of a slipping ability to resist assimilation to Anglophone North America. One reason for this is a disturbing tendency of Quebecers to move to other Canadian provinces where economic opportunities appear more promising. Another is the twin-headed beast of demography and immigration.

Prof. Henripin's estimates suggest that the population of Quebec is dropping by 30 per cent each generation. He suggests that by the year 2080, only 25 per cent of Quebec's population will be descended from today's inhabitants. The rest will be the offspring of immigrants arriving over the next 100 years.

Quebec passed provincial laws in the 1970s to promote the use of French. As a result, immigrants have had to send their children to French-language schools. The idea is to discourage them from living in English only and to thus attach them to the French majority. The Quebec provincial government is the only one in Canada to have a say in matters of immigration.

Francophone

Some immigrants feel that the move to bring them into the Francophone community reflects a big change here.

"To be considered a real Quebecer in the 1950s or '60s," says Antoine Tchipeff, a Bulgarian-Canadian and Quebec's assistant deputy minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, "you had to be Catholic, speak French, and work in (a) traditional profession. Today, Quebec society is incomparably more open, and is becoming more open all the time."

Tchipeff notes, however, that most immigrants to Quebec settle in Montreal. This means other parts of the province are not in tune with Montreal's multicultural reality. "The distance between Montreal and Quebec," he says, "is five years."

Quebec seeks candidates for immigration who are "francophiles." The term applies to people liable to integrate into the French majority — people from countries with historic

links to France, such as Haiti, Morocco, Lebanon, Vietnam, or Laos.

But the immigrants don't necessarily see things that way. "As far as I am concerned," says Soukhkhinham Pakdimoumvong, who was a civil servant in Laos before the Pathet Lao takeover in 1975, "the fact Quebec is a French-speaking society is an important reason for Laotians to come here."

Today Pakdimoumvong is head of a community organization that is concerned with the 4,500 Laotians in Quebec and nearly 10,000 of them refugees. He knows how hard it was for them to leave their country. They had to pay an intermediary a year's wages, or about \$1,000, to help them to cross the Mekong River in an innerube or on a bamboo raft. Then came years in detention camps in Thailand that Laotians call "concentration camps."

Struggling

"These people are struggling in camps in Thailand," he says. "All they hope is to leave the camps. Whatever country that accepts them, they will go there. No, they don't come to Quebec for the French language."

"You are what you have in your pocket."

The saying shocked Luis Fernandes the first time he heard it in Montreal. He's not sure if many people think that way, but he finds Quebec more materialistic than his native Brazil. The social worker got his first work experience on a project of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in a shantytown at Copacabana. They came to Quebec to finish his studies. Ironically, he ended up giving courses at the Catholic School Commission of Montreal. Fernandes is planning to return to Rio.

To his surprise, Quebec was not an economic paradise. Poor people live on social aid, he says, "and they don't look for ways out of their situation, they don't take any more than the weakest initiatives, they lead a very passive life. They are not motivated by a dream, based on consumption and the power of money."

Lamberto Tassinari is an Italian-born philosopher, novelist, and director of the trilingual (Italian-French-English) magazine, *Vice Versa*.

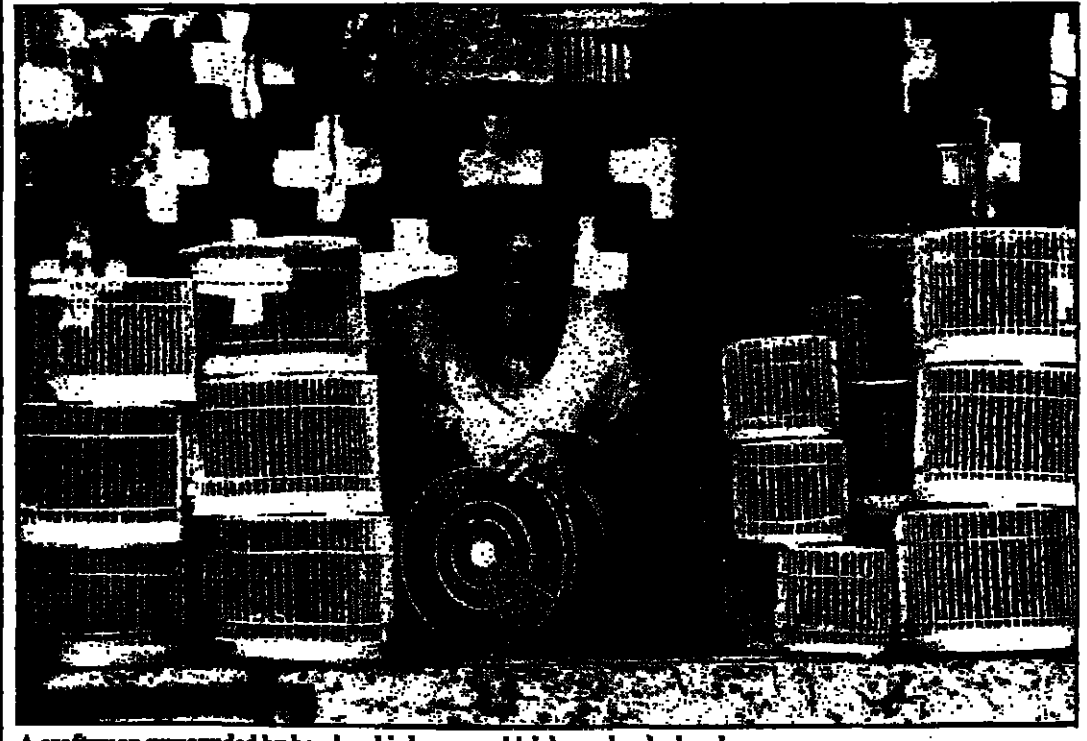
"Immigration is a little laboratory," he says. "It is the loss of centrality, of security, of everything that makes a person feel comfortable in his cultural armour-plating. To have one's own language is closely linked to culture. It's a kind of heaviness that makes you racist and limits you."

1988, The Christian Science Monitor.

Peking has gone to the birds!



A man listens to a bird's chirps to make sure it's healthy in Peking's Guanyuan Bird Market.



A craftsman surrounded by bamboo bird cages, which he makes by hand.

By Melanie Stetson Freeman

PEKING has gone to the birds. Nowadays you need a special licence to have dog, and it's been illegal to breed them since 1958. Not so birds, however, which have become the preferred pet and popular hobby for retired seniors, especially men.

Not only are birds good company, but they look pretty, sing nicely, don't take up much space, live in pretty little cages, and are bred easily. And in Peking the bird market is a great place to socialise with other bird lovers.

"People used to buy cats to catch rats, but now there are not so many rats, so you don't need cats," says Cai Ziang Bao, a 70-year-old bird salesman with a mischievous gleam in his eye, who amuses himself by using a peashooter to hit unsuspecting fellow bird sellers and customers in the Guanyuan Bird Market.

Weapon

The peashooter, however, is also the weapon with which he increases his inventory. (It just stuns them, he says, presumably in an attempt to reassure his questioner.)

The Guanyuan Market, the biggest of the five in Peking, is open every day, rain or shine, from 7 am to 7 pm. Legitimate salesmen need a letter of introduction from their former work unit to get a licence to sell. The others try to sell illegally at the front entrance, avoiding the 110-yuan-a-month (\$30) fee for a selling space, hiding the birds in their jackets when an official-looking person comes along.

Inside the open-air market, on one of the slower days — Sunday is the busiest — about 25 salesmen sit quietly, surrounded by cages, the birds' tweeting and singing the best form of advertising.

Duan Xinwu has 15 kinds of birds for sale, but says the "little yellow ones" are his best sellers, because "they're good egg layers." They go for 14 yuan (\$3.80) couple. Duan started selling birds when he discovered he had more than he

could handle at home. Now his inventory includes more exotic breeds, such as parrot with a price tag of 200 yuan (\$54). But one-year-old parakeets are still a bargain for only 3 yuan (80 cents) each.

One customer hopes to trade in his bird for a new model. The bird he has just doesn't sing. He'd rather have a warbler. He combs the two aisles in search of a replacement.

These are tough customers. They know their birds. One man holds a founding up to his ear, listening to its chirping to see if it's healthy. Conversations are constant and heated and all about birds. Crowds gather frequently around the well-informed birdmen, checking legs and wings for a purchase.

Available

Every type of bird paraphernalia is readily available: beautiful hand-crafted bamboo cages with ivory decorations, porcelain water and food cups, and a large variety of food, including bowls full of wiggling worms.

Next door are the fish, but they don't make much noise. The bird part of the market is clearly more popular. Besides, you can't walk a fish, and bird walking is a very popular activity.

"It's mutually beneficial to bird and owner," says Cao Yuliang, an elderly bird salesman with a lined face and long, grey beard — "fresh air for the bird and exercise for the people."

The exercise part comes from walking briskly through misty parks while vigorously swinging a cage or two of birds. When the people get tired, they simply hang the cages from a tree branch so the birds can be "aired out." Birds like that, supposedly. Then the people get to sit and chat while the birds sing and take in that fresh air.

"For old people, they take the birds for a walk. They're too lonely when they walk alone," says Cai as he inserts another pea in his peashooter and takes aim.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

By Dan Biers

CANTON, China: Cats, dogs, civets and snakes are all on sale at the Qingping Market, the bustling food fair that supplies the insatiable Cantonese appetite for just about anything that moves.

But while shoppers eagerly scan the stalls for their next main course, conservationists are angry that several protected animal species are making it to the dinner table in this region of southern China.

The Cantonese are legendary for the food they eat. "Anything with its back to the sky and its belly to the ground is edible," goes one local saying, apparently ruling out cannibalism but little else.

On one recent day at the Qingping market by the Pearl river waterfront, vendors were selling eels, turtles, poisonous snakes, cats of all sizes, a barking deer (also known as a muntjac), lizards for making medicinal wines, and dogs.

The cats, often kept several to a single small cage, are popular in a dish made with snake and chicken known as "dragon, tiger and phoenix."

Several cages contained masked palm civets, a badger-like animal, which sold for 24 yuan (about \$6.50) per cat. One civet is slightly more than a pound (450 grams).

After a sale, one vendor took the civet behind his stall and repeatedly swung the animal hard against the ground to kill it. Out front, his partner was explaining how civets "taste the best. They're very sweet."

Giant salamanders, protected under the convention on international trade in endangered species of wild flora and fauna, were openly for sale. The larger salamanders are destined for restaurant feasts.

Canton gourmets will try anything

If it moves, eat it

Another vendor showed visitors an adult grass owl, also a protected species, that he was trying to sell for more than 100 yuan (\$27). It was kept hidden from authorities in a back room.

Elderly Cantonese believe many exotic animals are beneficial to their health, while some Chinese "yuppies" view a banquet of endangered species as a way to show off one's wealth, said David S. Melville, a conservation officer with the World Wide Fund for Nature in Hong Kong.

Melville said Hong Kong authorities have cracked down on the sale of endangered species. The consumption of dogs is forbidden in the colony, although they remain a popular meal in rural areas.

With China's opening up to the outside world, however, it is much easier for Hong Kong residents to travel across the border to get their exotic food, Melville said.

He cited the case of Big Nose's Restaurant in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone of China, just across the border from Hong Kong, where he said clouded leopard cubs, pangolins, monkeys and birds of prey were available last year.

In January, Melville and Chinese forestry officials who "were visibly shocked by the whole thing" visited Big Nose's which was run at the back of an amusement park. More than two months later, the restaurant was shut down, he said.

The Official People's Daily overseas edition reported that a special 10-member investigative team has been sent from Beijing to Guangdong province to follow up on a directive issued last August to stop the illegal sale and smuggling of endangered animals.

The team visited Shenzhen on June 13, and found more than 10 restaurants selling pangolins and other rare animals, prompting one patrol member to say the situation was "worrying," the newspaper reported. It said more work was needed to end such activity.

Yang Yongji of the Guangdong department of forestry, which is responsible for protecting endangered species, said the province irregularly conducts patrols of markets during which rare animals and seized vendors fined. But, in a telephone interview, he could not recall an investigation of Qingping since March.

Some trafficking in endangered species appears to have moved underground. Pangolins, a scaly animal much favored by Chinese connoisseurs, were available a few years ago at Qingping but were not openly for sale during a recent trip, although one vendor said he had a supply hidden at home.

"There are in China some very dedicated conservationists," said Melville, but he acknowledged it is difficult to police such a large country.

"There's absolutely no doubt that China still has a long way to go to get these things under control," Melville said, adding "steps are being taken in the right direction at the moment."

BUSINESS & FINANCE

President-elect to meet Saddam Hussein

Perez calls for accord to stabilise oil prices

ABU DHABI, Jan 17, (OPECNA): Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez urged oil producing and consuming countries today to work for an agreement to stabilise oil prices at levels "satisfactory to both sides."

Speaking at a press conference after talks with leaders of the United Arab Emirates, Perez said "all the countries" that he had contacted so far supported his initiative for an OPEC summit meeting to protect the interests of member states.

"Both producers and consumers have understood the lessons of the oil market — that violent increases, much like violent drops, in oil prices harm producers as well as consumers," Perez said.

Another lesson, he added, was that it was "more advisable" for both parties to have stable prices.

Satisfied

Perez, who will be inaugurated as President of Venezuela on Feb 2, said he was satisfied by the "discipline" shown by OPEC members in abiding by the production quotas assigned to them following the Nov 28

agreement limiting the organisation's overall output to 18.50 million BPD.

The result, he observed, was the current firming up of world oil prices, which were nearer to OPEC's target level of \$18 a barrel.

"We have also observed with satisfaction the fact that non-OPEC producers have understood the advisability of co-operating with OPEC," Perez said.

According to the president-elect, a "very good date" to hold the proposed OPEC summit

would be next year to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the organisation.

However, he added, Venezuela would be "willing" to hold such a meeting on any other date.

Optimistic

He said although Caracas would be "honoured" to host the summit, it believed an appropriate venue could be one of the countries in the Gulf.

He said Venezuela and other countries in Latin America had received with "great joy" the news of the ceasefire agreement

between Iran and Iraq, two founding members of OPEC.

"We are very optimistic that we will have a definite peace very soon between the two countries that I will visit later today or tomorrow."

Perez is scheduled to leave for Tehran later today after talks with the UAE defence and finance ministers in the emirate of Dubai. Venezuelan officials said Perez was scheduled to hold talks with Iranian President Ali Khamenei and Prime Minister Hussein Musavi.

He will fly to Baghdad

tomorrow for talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

During his talks on Monday with Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, the situation in the world oil market and OPEC member country quotas were discussed, Perez said.

He said he believed a strict adherence by all members of their output quotas would enable the organisation at the June meeting to redistribute the shares within an expanded ceiling.

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World Business Summary

Cheaper dollar could backfire on America

TOKYO, Jan 17, (AP): Pushing the dollar's value lower against the Japanese yen to help boost US exports to Japan could have the opposite, long-term effect of boosting Japan's trade surplus, a Japanese finance official said today. "A further decline in the dollar would not reduce the Japanese trade surplus," declared Makoto Utsumi, director-general of the Finance Ministry's International Finance Bureau. "It would rather increase the surplus. 'If the dollar weakens further, Japanese businesses would take steps to survive by further rationalisation of business and manufacturing, keeping wage increases low, cutting labour further — economy in every aspect,' Utsumi told Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. After several industrialised nations including Japan agreed to slash the dollar's value in the mid-1980s to help shrink the US trade deficit, Japanese manufacturers responded by improving efficiency. In February 1987, those industrialised nations agreed on approximate exchange rate ranges for the US dollar and other major currencies, seeking to restore stability to exchange markets, but the dollar continued to slide from its September 1985 level of 240 yen. The dollar closed at 127.70 yen in Tokyo today. It has ranged between 120 and 135 yen since November 1987. Economists remain divided over the actual impact of a cheaper dollar on trade flows. Some say the cheaper dollar has helped narrow the trade gap by dampening demand for more expensive foreign goods in the United States and stimulating sales of cheaper US goods overseas. They say the dollar would have to drop to 90 yen or lower to achieve desired reductions in the US trade deficit. But Utsumi said further declines in the dollar's value would not improve American export competitiveness. "American industries are fully competitive at this exchange rate," he said. "The problem is not price competitiveness of US industries, but the willingness and capacity to export." Using exchange rates to boost exports has the disadvantage of encouraging manufacturers to concentrate on fattening their profit margins rather than improving productivity, Utsumi added. The ministry official urged the incoming administration of President-elect George Bush to cut the US budget deficit and curb consumer demand.

Mexico voices support for OPEC

MEXICO CITY, Jan 17, (UPI): Energy Minister Fernando Hiriart assured his Indonesian counterpart yesterday that Mexico will co-operate fully with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to bolster oil prices, a Mexican official said. Abel Magana, chief spokesman for the Mexican energy ministry, told United Press International that Hiriart and Gnanjar Kartasasmita, Energy Minister of OPEC member Indonesia, held closed-door talks early yesterday on ways to bring about stability to international oil markets and boost bilateral co-operation between the organisation and independent oil producers. "Hiriart assured the Indonesian energy minister that Mexico will co-operate fully with OPEC to stabilise prices and oil markets," Magana said. Kartasasmita arrived in Mexico City on Sunday for a two-day stay after visits to OPEC members Venezuela and Ecuador and to independent oil producer Colombia. After his meeting with Hiriart, Kartasasmita held talks with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to discuss oil prices and bilateral economic co-operation. Mexico, the world's fourth largest oil producer after the Soviet Union, the United States and Saudi Arabia, is not a member of OPEC, but has co-ordinated its production and pricing policies with the 13-oil nation organisation in recent years. "Mexico has always co-operated with OPEC and other producers and it will continue to do so," Magana said. When asked whether Hiriart told his Indonesian counterpart that Mexico would unilaterally reduce its production to lead impetus to OPEC's landmark Vienna accord, Magana said he did not know. In the past, Hiriart repeatedly has said Mexico would cut its oil output if other producers did the same.

Sudan unveils sugar price hikes

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Jan 17, (AP): Prime Minister Sadek El Mahdi yesterday announced a 150 per cent increase in the price of sugar, almost three weeks after similar hikes sent thousands to the streets in violent protests that resulted in four people killed. The protests on Dec 29 forced the government to immediately rescind the hikes it imposed to pay for salary increases of up to 500 per cent that had been announced two days earlier. The then price increases had reached 600 per cent in the case of sugar, a basic commodity for Sudanese. The increases also included 60 per cent on cigarettes and a 15 per cent tax on locally manufactured commodities. El Mahdi also told a press conference yesterday he approved recommendations for economic reforms presented by a committee of trade and professional unions that was formed after the riots. The recommendations include a reduction in government expenditure, new taxes on luxury goods, and an increase in the price of cigarettes. No details were immediately available. The committee however had recommended that sugar, wheat, wheat flour, oil, artificial limbs and journals be exempted from any hikes. The premier did not say when the new prices would go into effect, but they are widely expected to be implemented immediately. El Mahdi said sugar would be sold at two prices, a subsidised price of 125 Sudanese piasters (11 cents) a pound in government stores, and a free price at other markets centres to be fixed according to offer and demand. The previous sugar price was 50 piasters a pound.

Top S. African banker quits to take up overseas post

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 17, (Reuters): The chief executive of South Africa's biggest bank has resigned and will emigrate to work for a company in Europe, the bank said today.

The First National Bank of Southern Africa, the former South African Associate of Britain's Barclays Bank, gave no reason for the departure of Chris Ball.

"His resignation as managing director and from the various bank's boards on which he serves has been accepted with regret and with immediate effect," it said.

Ball, not immediately available for comment, was a leading figure in liberal English-speaking business and his criticism of the government placed him in direct confrontation with President P.W. Botha in the past.

Two years ago a commission of inquiry found that he had arranged funds for newspaper advertisements supporting the banned African National Congress guerrilla movement.

Some businessmen saw the inquiry as a "witchhunt" against him to discourage opposition in the business establishment.

THE BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA and some branches were accused with "treasonable activities" but had to be cleared by private security personnel.

The bank named deputy managing director Barry Swart to succeed him as chief executive today.

First National Bank was controlled by London-based Barclays Bank until November 1986 when the British bank disinvested from South Africa under pressure from anti-apartheid campaigners.

US industry capacity rises

PITTSBURGH, Jan 17, (AP): The ability to produce steel in the United States will increase this year after declining for seven consecutive years, the American Iron and Steel Institute said yesterday.

The industry's raw steel production capacity is expected to reach 115.9 million tons this year, compared with 112 million tons in 1988, the low point of the decade.

The AISI said the figure was projected from a December survey of all mills with furnaces for melting.

American steelmakers had facilities capable of producing 160 million tons of steel per year in 1977, the most on record.

The increase from 1988 to 1989 is mostly a result of newer and more efficient equipment. Those capital investments have paid off with increased yield of finished products per ton of raw steel, the AISI said.

The average yield is now close to 85 per cent, compared with 71.5 per cent 10 years ago.

Plan to launch meat project

AMMAN, Jan 17, (Reuters): A joint Jordanian-Egyptian company said today it planned to begin livestock production to meet the growing demand for meat in the two countries.

The director general of the company, Midhat Abdulaziz, told a news conference planned production was 14,200 tonnes of meat and 20,800 head of sheep a year.

He said this compared with projected annual demand of 238,000 tonnes in Egypt and 41,000 tonnes in Jordan by 1995.

He said about \$12 million would be spent on the scheme which would be based on reclaimed land near the Egyptian port city of Alexandria.

Chavan hopeful of upswing in economy

Growth rate may go up to 9pc, says minister

COCHIN, India, Jan 17: The Indian economy is expected to post a growth rate of around nine per cent, which may even go up to double digits, this financial year, the Union Finance Minister, S.B. Chavan, said here last week, according to Economic Times.

Inaugurating the 36th meeting of the standing committee of presidents of 15 recognised stock exchanges in the country, Chavan said: "The corporate results have been very good, and this is reflected in the share prices as well as in the increased investor interest in a large number of shares, specified and cash."

The finance minister said the government's pragmatic and liberal economic policies and the development strategy were already showing "excellent results." This trend should continue, he said.

Openness

Chavan said he was happy that the industry and exporters were fast getting adjusted to the new winds of openness, competition and quality consciousness. "This will mean an accelerated industrial growth at home and better performance on the export front," he said.

Stating that many steps had been taken to ensure investor confidence, Chavan said new institutions like the Securities Exchange Board of India and the Stock Holding Corporation of India had become operational to help and protect the new and small investor. Various mutual funds had also come into being and more were in the offing, he said.

Chavan said the number of recognised stock exchanges goes up to 16. "On need based considerations, recognition would be given to more stock exchanges in the future too," he said.

Motivate

With this, the number of recognised stock exchanges goes up to 16. "On need based considerations, recognition would be given to more stock exchanges in the future too," he said.

Chavan said taking "various fundamental sectors into consideration," he was looking forward to the future trend of the market with confidence. However, he added, the common investor had still many problems to face and stock exchange authorities, companies issuing securities, investment intermediaries and the government should try to bring further efficiency to the market.

Computerisation

The minister asked the stock exchange presidents to discuss steps to set up what he called a "true national market." He said this should be done along with efforts at a greater degree of computerisation and inter-exchange linkages.

The finance minister wanted the stock exchange authorities to make available "broking services to the common investor" at a dispersed and convenient points, and in a simple, comprehensible manner.

"Greater liquidity has to be provided for fixed income securities like bonds and debentures," he said and added that to do this, stock exchanges must consider either separate trading floors or extra trading time. At the outset Chavan announced that recognition had been given to the new stock exchange at Jaipur.

Motivate

With this, the number of recognised stock exchanges goes up to 16. "On need based considerations, recognition would be given to more stock exchanges in the future too," he said.

The challenge before the country was to motivate the saver to become an investor, Chavan said. There was a revived feeling of optimism and buoyancy in the capital market. "This is a welcome development and what is even more satisfying is the fact that this buoyancy reflects the fundamental strength of the market and economy," he said.

The centre is ready to consider any viable response for central investment by the Kerala government on merit, irrespective of the state's credit-deposit ratio, the union finance minister said.

Inaugurating a Rs 4-crore central revenues office complex here the finance minister said that there was no question of discriminating between states in the matter of central investments for viable and innovative projects.

Regretted

Chavan regretted that despite this stand of the centre, there were still complaints that the union government was discriminating against Kerala.

He assured the Kerala people that the centre would go all out to help the progress of the state especially in the matter of sanctioning viable projects provided the state government was able to submit proposals. "Credit deposit ratio would never be the centre's consideration," he added.

Chavan said the central government was committed to continue relentless crusade against tax evaders, smugglers and drug traffickers and the provisions of pre-emptive purchase of property for forestalling genera-

tion of black money had yielded good results.

He said that intensification of survey all over the country had brought to fore three lakh new assesses. He said strengthening the preventive machinery was the government's ongoing policy in the field of anti-smuggling.

Problems

The minister called for continued dialogue by the central excise and income tax departments with the trade and industry to avoid unnecessary problems in the way of maximising revenue collections.

The minister complimented the central excise officials in Kerala for their anti-smuggling measures which he said had resulted in an increase in value of seizures from Rs 6 crore in 1986 to Rs 10.62 crore in 1988. He said the revenue collected by the central excise in Cochin was about Rs 321 crore in 1988 (up to December) which he said had exceeded the pro-rata sanctioned budget estimate for 1988-89.

Income

Presidents of 15 recognised stock exchanges in the country today urged the union finance minister, to raise the income tax exemption limit from the present Rs 18,000 to at least Rs 25,000 so as to attract people to invest their savings in stocks and securities.

In a joint memorandum presented to Chavan at the function at which he inaugurated the 36th meeting of the standing committee of presidents of stock exchanges here they pointed out that the present minimum level of Rs 18,000 had been in opera-

tion since April 1, 1985.

Besides the marginal rate of taxation was made applicable at the level of Rs 100,000 way back in 1977. This should now be raised to at least Rs 200,000 although the extent of price rise would warrant a further hike, they said.

The memorandum said that the total amount of capital that would be raised from the primary market during 1988-89 in the country would be about Rs 5,000 crore — about seven per cent of the gross domestic savings. "It is our endeavour to raise this amount to at least Rs 10,000 crore which would be about ten per cent of the gross domestic product by the end of the eighth plan."

Plan

But this could be achieved only by the government granting fiscal concessions to attract people to invest in stocks and securities in a big way, stock exchange presidents said.

The memorandum pointed out that the present levels of exemption fixed under Section 80 C of Income Tax Act in respect of savings like contributions to provident fund, LIC were quite inadequate. "Not only the total exemption limits need to be raised from Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000 but also the level of 100 per cent exemption to be raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 12,000," they pleaded.

The memorandum urged the centre to exempt recognised stock exchanges totally from payment of income tax.

Policy co-ordination vital for growth

Arab economic strategy seeks to boost private sector activity

THE Arab world has in recent years become more conscious of the need to tap the full potential of all its human, physical and financial resources. In 1988 there have been notable achievements in the productive sectors and progress in services sectors which have provided a compelling example for other operators and employees, reports Economic and Financial Quarterly of Arab Banking Corporation.

The oil industry itself has contributed to the process of adjustment, with organisational rationalisations and new marketing initiatives by several oil-producing countries.

The development of new primary oil and gas-producing capacities has had an important

impact on some of the Arab world's poorer economies, while greater sophistication and confidence has been displayed in negotiating the terms and scope of necessary foreign involvement in this area.

Significantly

The growing international success of Arab heavy industries in the Gulf and North Africa such as aluminium, petrochemicals, and fertilisers has begun to contribute significantly to individual countries' export earnings, at the same time as encouraging foreign partners to propose new investment schemes.

Moreover, the closer linkages being forged with secondary manufacturing ventures in the

Arab world are adding to the growth of the manufacturing sector in general and furthering the cause of overall economic diversification.

Gains

Despite isolated gains in the area of agricultural production in 1988, internal reform alone cannot be expected to make more than limited inroads into solving the Arab world's 'food security' problem, while difficulties such as seasonal rainfall fluctuations, locust invasions and the distortion of world-wide agricultural trade have still to be confronted.

The second half of 1988 witnessed two major developments — the Gulf war ceasefire and a further restructuring of OPEC's production-sharing accord —

that will undoubtedly have far-reaching economic consequences for the Arab world in the coming years.

Throughout the year, however, less dramatic but in many ways no less important advances continued to be made in the broad-ranging adjustment process that has found favour in almost all Arab countries, oil-importing or exporting, and that has helped maintain growth and investment in difficult circumstances.

Strategies

In pursuing economic strategies that seek to encourage private sector activity, curb state intervention and budget deficits, promote efficiency and favour

market prices, the Arab world should not be seen only to be following international trends.

Further advances and growth in the Arab economy will require skillful management, delicate policy co-ordination, and a higher level of productive investment and counterpart saving.

It is particularly important that in the numerous efforts being made to encourage private sector involvement, government incentives should encompass the widest range of fiscal and other options, and should not become so generous or protectionist as to store up future problems.

NTT to release traffic information to increase fair competition

TOKYO, Jan 17, (AP): Under pressure from the government and new competitors, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co. said on Friday it would disclose details on the use of its services, a move expected to boost competition in the lucrative telecommunications market.

The utility, long owned by the government, was made private in 1985, and its telecommunications monopoly ended at the same time. But it was allowed to retain key traffic information as a corporate secret.

The detailed data describes the use of telephones and other telecommunications links, such as the number of calls made between each administrative district and revenues derived from each district.

Breakdown

The number of telephone subscribers in each city and a distance-based breakdown of long-distance calls from each district also are regarded as important traffic information.

Access to such information is considered crucial for companies planning to come into the telecommunications market. But until now, NTT kept it secret despite pressure from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunica-

tions and new common carriers that entered the market after NTT's monopoly ended in 1985.

"The competition is getting quite severe for us in many different aspects, but we decided to disclose some of the information we have to accommodate the needs of new common carriers," NTT president Haruo Yamaguchi said at a news conference.

The company has been disclosing the total number of subscribers nationwide, and the total number of calls made annually, but it withheld other details.

Information

The company said information such as the number of subscribers in each district, the number and volume of calls from each district, the hourly breakdown of use in each district and the traffic between prefectures will be released by June.

Such information will likely help new common carriers in setting rates for long-distance calls.

Three companies, Teleway Japan, DDI and Japan Telecom, have started long-distance telephone services since 1986 in the 310-kilometre-long (320-mile) corridor between Japan's two biggest cities, Tokyo and Osaka. But they have hesitated to extend

into other areas.

Hajime Nakayama, executive vice president of DDI, said the company went into Tokyo-Osaka service because it was the only area promising profits.

"We want to eventually establish nationwide long-distance service, but at this point, we are obliged to expand step by step because it is difficult to anticipate profitability in other areas," he said. "We really have no idea of how many calls have been made between, for example, Tokyo and Sendai, a northern city."

The Tokyo-Osaka corridor covers more than 70 per cent of Japan's 120 million population, and the new companies are offering long-distance rates about 20 per cent lower than NTT's.

NTT says the corridor generates about 30 per cent of its total revenue. It recently projected that its pretax profit for the fiscal year ending March 31 will decline 14.6 per cent from last year, partly because of the competition.

To meet the challenge, NTT has proposed cutting its long-distance rates by 8.3 per cent and is waiting for the government's approval. But the new common carriers are expected to follow with similar rate cuts.

Zaire to stop paying debt to Belgium

KINSHASA, Jan 17, (Reuters): President Mobutu Sese Seko, stung by Belgian press criticism of his lifestyle, said yesterday Zaire would stop debt repayments to Belgium.

It would also look to countries other than Belgium to refine its huge copper exports, Mobutu said, adding the decisions should be implemented no matter what the cost.

He denounced a 28-year-old friendship treaty between Brussels and his former colony, and said relations would have to change.

"Belgium is entirely responsible for the present crisis... even though I have decided not to break off relations it is clear that the relationship with Belgium cannot continue in its present form," Mobutu said.

Movement

He was speaking after a special meeting of the ruling People's Movement for the Revolution called to review ties between the two countries.

The meeting decided to suspend payment of Zaire's estimated \$1.2-billion debt to Belgium and to seek an alternative to the smelter at Hoboken, Belgium, for its copper.

Required Three Technical Instructors in English, Engineering Drawing and Metallurgy

Candidates must possess a B.S./B.A. or M.A./M.Sc. with 5 + years experience in degree field. TESOL/TEFL/ESP required for English position. Engineering concentration required for drawing and metallurgy positions. Fluency in both Arabic and English a requirement. Attractive salary and benefits. Positions available now.

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24755 Raas, Kuwait

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		LONDON (Beta Stocks)	
NAME	LAST	NAME	CLOSE
ABBEY LIFE	300/0	2ND ALICE	756/0
ADT LTD	126/0	600 GROUP	112/0
ALD LYONS	458/0	A.MER TS	378/0
ARSTRAD	157/0	A.S.ELECT	367/0
ARGYLE GP	177/0	A.S.-W.HLD	193/0
ASDA GP	140/0	AAB KENT	89/0
BAA	278/0	AAN HLD	287/0
BTR	312/0	AARONSON	116/0
BAT IND	469/0	ADDISON	31/0
BARCLAYS	425/0	ADVEST	161/0
BASS	854/0	ALEX WIKIN	159/0
BEAZER	185/0	ALEXON	319/0
BEECHAM	499/0	ALLD COLL	125/0
BELFRORD	405/0	ALLD IR B	245/0
BICC PLC	405/0	ALLD LDN	129/0
BLUE ARMY	87/0	ALLD PLAT	66/0
BLUE CLIC	460/0	ALLIANCE	865/0
BOC GP	431/0	AMBER DAY	40/0
BOOTS CO	234/0	AMEC	339/0
BPS IND	225/0	AMER TST	130/0
BR CONN	233/0	AMERSHAM	513/0
BR AIRWAY	171/0	AMI HLTHC	257/0
BR AEROSP	472/0	ANGLIA TV	211/0
BR GAS RT	159/5	ANSBACHER	78/0
BR LAND	342/0	APPLEYARD	396/0
B.P.	256/0	APV PLC	135/0
B.P.PP	154/0	ASHLEY LA	100/0
BR STEEL	65/0	AUS REE A	215/0
BURNHAM OL	494/0	AUST REED	343/0
BURTON	178/0	AUTO SECS	238/0
CABLEWIR	375/0	AVESCO	98/0
CALOR GRP	375/0	AVIS EUR	117/0
CALSONIC	375/0	AVON RUBB	322/0
CLINTON R	705/0	SEARS	113/0
CLINTON R	705/0	SEAGWICK	240/0
COOKDALE	281/0	SNELL	352/0
DALGETY	316/0	STEEB	415/0
DIXONS	134/0	SLOUGH ES	313/0
ENG CHINA	456/0	STD.CHART	520/0
ENTER OIL	509/5	STC	282/0
FBI BACK	132/0	STORENSE	196/0
FERRANTI	106/0	SUN ALIA	006/0
FISONS	247/0	SUN LIFE	972/0
GATEWAY	175/0	TARMAC	249/0
GEN ACCIO	890/0	TATEALY	860/0
GEN ELEC	211/0	TYLOR WOOD	608/0
GRAND	057/0	TRAF HSE	312/0
GRANADA	43/16	TSE	110/0
GLOBE	145/0	T + N	171/0
GLYNED	283/0	TRUTHSEE	260/0
GUARD RYL	86/0	ULTRAWAR	295/0
GUN	313/0	UNILEVER	479/0
GUINNESS	342/0	UNIGATE	355/0
HANOVER A	885/0	UTD INSPR	382/0
HARISON	158/0	WELLCOME	445/0
HARRISON C	662/0	WILMITS	319/0
HICKS STD	544/0	WILLIAMS	244/0
HILLSDOWN	246/5	WILLIS FB	231/0
ICI	060/0	WIMPET GE	289/0
		WOOLWORTH	258/0

World Indices				
INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-GR	PREV-YR
FT 300 IND	1521.3	1525.1	1519.7	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	1053.7	1053.7	1048.0	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	966.78	966.78	961.80	926.59
FT GOV SEC	87.62	87.62	87.01	87.03
FT GOLD NW	165.4	165.4	163.9	161.9
FT MINES F	594.09	594.09	590.05	565.31
FT OIL	1806.3	1806.3	1788.5	1725.4
FT MLD DLR	142.98	142.98	142.79	139.21
FT MLD STG	119.09	119.09	118.63	115.30
FT MLD LOC	127.51	127.51	127.40	123.40

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS END DULL BUT FTSE 100 NEAR CHART POINT

LONDON, JAN 17, REUTER - EQUITIES REMAINED DULL IN LATE TRADE BUT THE FTSE 100 WAS STILL ONLY JUST SHY OF THE NEXT CHART LEVEL OF BETWEEN THE 1,870 TO 1,895 LEVEL, DEALERS SAID.

"IF THERE'S SOME CONSOLIDATION AFTER THE RECENT GAINS AND NO BAD NEWS I CAN SEE THE FOOTSTOCK (FTSE 100) BREAKING THROUGH THE 1,870 TO 1,895 CHART POINT, RANDALL GOLDSMITH, MARKET STRATEGIST AT BROKERS JAMES CAPEL SAID.

AT 1540 GMT THE FTSE 100 WAS A NET 4.6 POINTS DOWN ON THE DAY AT 1,867.2 HAVING GAINED OVER 90 POINTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. VOLUME WAS A MODERATE 330 MILLION SHARES AT 1500 GMT.

THE FTSE 100 HAS NOT MOVED OVER THE 1,900 LEVEL SINCE THE WEEK OF THE GLOBAL STOCK MARKET COLLAPSE IN OCTOBER, 1987 BUT TOUCHED A POST-CRASH HIGH OF 1,892.2 IN JUNE.

HIGHER VOLUME AND BID ACTIVITY HAS FUELED THE RECENT GAINS AS HAS AN INCREASE IN INSTITUTIONAL LIQUIDITY, ANALYSTS SAID.

IAN HARMODY CHIEF ECONOMIST AT BROKERS WARBURG SAID.

INSTITUTIONAL LIQUIDITY IS AT ITS HIGHEST LEVEL EVER, BUT IT WAS A MISTAKE TO THINK ALL THIS CASH WAS DESTINED FOR EQUITIES.

GOLDSMITH SAID AN EQUITY RISE SHOULD MEET LITTLE RESISTANCE UP TO THE FTSE 1,950 LEVEL AND COULD REACH 2,000 BY THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER.

Precious Metals

LONDON, JAN 17, REUTER - GOLD BULLION TRADING REMAINED QUIET AS PROFESSIONALS PICKED DIRECTION AHEAD OF WEDNESDAY'S U.S. TRADE FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER.

GOLD WAS FIXED SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT 402.25 DOLLARS AN OUNCE COMPARED WITH THE OPENING OF 401.70/402.20 AND THE PREVIOUS CLOSE OF 401.50/402.00.

DEALERS SAID PRECIOUS METALS ARE UNLIKELY TO MAKE ANY DRAMATIC MOVES FOR THE REST OF THE SESSION UNLESS THE DOLLAR ADVANCES FURTHER. PRICES REMAINED QUIET AND WERE EXPECTED TO HOLD THEIR LEVELS FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, THEY ADDED.

London Money Market

LONDON, JAN 17, REUTER - MONEY RATES ENDED LITTLE CHANGED AS THE MARKET FOCUS TURNED TO THE SERIES OF ECONOMIC DATA DUE LATER THIS WEEK.

THE LONGER END OF THE MARKET OPENED SOFTER AS FAVOURABLE PRESS COMMENT ON NEWS YESTERDAY OF A 0.1 PCT FALL IN DECEMBER U.K. RETAIL SALES GAVE RISE TO BULLISH SENTIMENT.

ONE TRADER SAID, "RETAIL SALES WAS A GOOD FIGURE BUT IT'S EARLY DAYS TO START TALKING ABOUT A FALL IN (U.K.) INTEREST RATES. AVERAGE EARNINGS OR MONEY SUPPLY LATER THIS WEEK WILL GIVE THE BEST PICTURE ON INFLATION." THREE MONTH INTERBANK DEPOSITS WERE BID 1/16 FIRMER AT 13-1/8 1/16.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPN
STG 1.7705/15	1.7705/15	1.8470/80	6.2965/85	NOON
DMK 1.8436/8516	3.265/279	3.2715/50	11.1470/585	NOON
FFR 6.92/304	11.1485/1665	340.59/1.230	29.255/415	FIX
SFR 1.5725-5735	2.7841/7875	85.09-19	24.96-99	1300
NFL 2.0850	3.6940	112.855	33.10	FIX
ECU 1.2864	0.637397	2.08606	7.11099	CLSE
SDR 1.32296	0.745886	2.43213	8.29781	CLSE
YEN 127.52/62	225.75/226.10			NOON
SDR RATE	13/01/1989	OTHERS	17/01/1989	

NEW YORK		NEW YORK	
NAME	OPEN	NAME	OPEN
AESCH CON	31/2	ATLANTIC R	84/4
ATLANTIC R	84/4	AAR CORP	25/4
AAR CORP	25/4	ABBOTT LAB	47/5
ABBOTT LAB	47/5	ACME CLVD	10/0
ACME CLVD	10/0	ADV MICRO	8/6
ADV MICRO	8/6	AEROFIL LAB	5/7
AEROFIL LAB	5/7	AETNA LIFE	48/3
AETNA LIFE	48/3	AIWASON	17/0
AIWASON	17/0	AIR PR-CHN	44/7
AIR PR-CHN	44/7	ALASKA AIR	20/3
ALASKA AIR	20/3	ALBERTSONS	38/5
ALBERTSONS	38/5	ALPHA 8-16	0
ALPHA 8-16	0	ALCAN ALUM	34/0
ALCAN ALUM	34/0	ALCO STAND	26/7
ALCO STAND	26/7	AM CAP SEC	22/0
AM CAP SEC	22/0	AM CYANIDE	49/1
AM CYANIDE	49/1	AM FAMILY	14/3
AM FAMILY	14/3	AM ROK PRO	82/1
AM ROK PRO	82/1	AM STADIUM	0
AM STADIUM	0	AMCO CORP	78/2
AMCO CORP	78/2	AMP INC	44/2
AMP INC	44/2	AMPO PITT	0
AMPO PITT	0	AMR CORP	54/3
AMR CORP	54/3	AMR GEN CO	31/0
AMR GEN CO	31/0	AMERADA RE	32/3
AMERADA RE	32/3	ANTHEM ELE	9/7
ANTHEM ELE	9/7	APACHE CP	8/6
APACHE CP	8/6	APPAL 8-12	0
APPAL 8-12	0	ARMSTRONG	34/4
ARMSTRONG	34/4	ASRLND OIL	34/7
ASRLND OIL	34/7	ASIA PACIF	7/1
ASIA PACIF	7/1	ATLS CORP	26/7
ATLS CORP	26/7	AVERT INC	23/0
AVERT INC	23/0	AVERT INC	22/3
AVERT INC	22/3	AVON PRODS	21/0
AVON PRODS	21/0	BCE INC	31/0
BCE INC	31/0	BELLSOUTH	39/6
BELLSOUTH	39/6	BELO CP A	24/1
BELO CP A	24/1	BETH STEEL	23/7
BETH STEEL	23/7	BEVERLY	6/4
BEVERLY	6/4	BK BOSTON	23/5
BK BOSTON	23/5	BK BOSTN-A	0
BK BOSTN-A	0	BK N-YORK	38/1
BK N-YORK	38/1	BK TR-NY	38/0
BK TR-NY	38/0	BKAMERICA	18/2
BKAMERICA	18/2	BKAM SPEC	0
BKAM SPEC	0	BOEING CO	60/5
BOEING CO	60/5	BOISE CASC	41/2
BOISE CASC	41/2	BND IN GLD	7/0
BND IN GLD	7/0	BORDEN	57/5
BORDEN	57/5	BOWLER	27/7
BOWLER	27/7	BR TELECOM	29/4
BR TELECOM	29/4	BRIGGS-ST	44/3
BRIGGS-ST	44/3	BRIST-NYER	14/5
BRIST-NYER	14/5	BRUNSWICK	18/5
BRUNSWICK	18/5	C 3 HD INC	12/3
C 3 HD INC	12/3	C 3 HD INC	21/6
C 3 HD INC	21/6	CALSONIC	39/2
CALSONIC	39/2	CANESAW W	32/0
CANESAW W	32/0	CAS MGT GS	14/5
CAS MGT GS	14/5	CAS FREIGHT	25/3
CAS FREIGHT	25/3	CAT-COKE	27/4
CAT-COKE	27/4	CATERPIT	67/2
CATERPIT	67/2	CB I IND	26/5
CB I IND	26/5	CBS	174/4
CBS	174/4	CENTEL CP	58/0
CENTEL CP	58/0	CHAMP INTL	33/4
CHAMP INTL	33/4	CHAMP SPA	14/7
CHAMP SPA	14/7	CHARTER CO	4/2
CHARTER CO	4/2	CHASE MAN	30/7
CHASE MAN	30/7	CHEMED CE	32/4
CHEMED CE	32/4	CHEMICAL BIK	48/1
CHEMICAL BIK	48/1	CHRYSLER	27/3
CHRYSLER	27/3	CHUBB CORP	59/1
CHUBB CORP	59/1	CHUR FR CH	8/1
CHUR FR CH	8/1	CIGNA CORP	49/6
CIGNA CORP	49/6	CIN MILAC	23/0
CIN MILAC	23/0	CIR CIT ST	41/6
CIR CIT ST	41/6	CIRCLE K	11/7
CIRCLE K	11/7	CITICORP	27/4
CITICORP	27/4	CLARK EQUI	32/0
CLARK EQUI	32/0	CLOCK	31/6
CLOCK	31/6	COMBIL RES	15
COMBIL RES	15	COMINTL	31/4
COMINTL	31/4	CON PACIFIC	18/6
CON PACIFIC	18/6	COACHMEN	9/0
COACHMEN	9/0	COASTAL	34/0
COASTAL	34/0	COCA-COLA	44/4
COCA-COLA	44/4	COLECO	1/2
COLECO	1/2	COLEMAN CO	42/0
COLEMAN CO	42/0	COLG-PALM	46/0
COLG-PALM	46/0	COLUMBIA-C	0
COLUMBIA-C	0	CON EDISON	32/6
CON EDISON	32/6	CONAGRA	30/0
CONAGRA	30/0	CON EDISON	46/5
CON EDISON	46/5	CONTINENTAL	33/2
CONTINENTAL	33/2	CONTEL ILLN	403
CONTEL ILLN	403	CONTEL CP	42/0
CONTEL CP	42/0	CONTEL DATA	20/6
CONTEL DATA	20/6	COOPER T-R	24/0
COOPER T-R	24/0	COOPER CO	5/0
COOPER CO	5/0	CORNING GL	70/5
CORNING GL	70/5	CRAY RES	62/7
CRAY RES	62/7	CULLINET	6/3
CULLINET	6/3	DANA CORP	39/4
DANA CORP	39/4	DANIEL IND	9/7
DANIEL IND	9/7	DATA GEN	18/5
DATA GEN	18/5	DAYTON HUD	40/4
DAYTON HUD	40/4	DEC	99/2
DEC	99/2	DEERE-CO	49/0
DEERE-CO	49/0	DELTA AIR	50/2
DELTA AIR	50/2	DENBOLD SH	15/7
DENBOLD SH	15/7	DENBOLD SH	39/1
DENBOLD SH	39/1	DISNEY W	68/5
DISNEY W	68/5	DOVER CORP	29/6
DOVER CORP	29/6	DOW CHEM	89/2
DOW CHEM	89/2	DOW JONES	30/5
DOW JONES	30/5	DRESSER IN	31/0
DRESSER IN	31/0	DREYFUS	27/7
DREYFUS	27/7	DUKE POWER	45/5
DUKE POWER	45/5	DUN BRAD	53/5
DUN BRAD	53/5	DUPONT	91/2
DUPONT	91/2	DUPONT	18/0
DUPONT	18/0	DYNAMICS	23/4
DYNAMICS	23/4	E SYSTEMS	30/4
E SYSTEMS	30/4	EAGLE PICR	16/6
EAGLE PICR	16/6	EASTERN EL	23/6
EASTERN EL	23/6	EMERSON EL	30/3
EMERSON EL	30/3	EMERSON RA	4/5
EMERSON RA	4/5	ETHEL CP	22/3
ETHEL CP	22/3	EXON	44/6
EXON	44/6	FAD DOL ST	12/6
FAD DOL ST	12/6	FED NAT CR	35/0
FED NAT CR	35/0	FELD MOTO	19/5
FELD MOTO	19/5	FIN COR-AM	0
FIN COR-AM	0	FLEETWOT	25/4
FLEETWOT	25/4	FMC CORP	32/2
FMC CORP	32/2	FORD MOTOR	52/4
FORD MOTOR	52/4	FOSTER WHL	15/2
FOSTER WHL	15/2	FRCHLD IND	16/2
FRCHLD IND	16/2	FREE MC OG	4/6
FREE MC OG	4/6	FST BANK	20/0
FST BANK	20/0	FST CHICAG	32/5
FST CHICAG	32/5	FST INTERS	45/0
FST INTERS	45/0	FST MISSIP	17/5
FST MISSIP	17/5	GAF CORP	47/5
GAF CORP	47/5	GAMNET CO	35/5
GAMNET CO	35/5	GALVESTON	2/2
GALVESTON	2/2	GATX CORP	58/5
GATX CORP	58/5	GCA CP	0
GCA CP	0	GEN DATA	5/0

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-GR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	295.6	297.0	296.7	290.3
AUSTRIA	239.9	240.0	240.1	238.8
BELGIUM	445.8	445.6	443.5	435.0
CANADA	381.3	380.3	379.8	367.1
DENMARK	557.3	556.0	552.0	518.9
FRANCE	463.5	462.8	462.7	442.7
GERMANY	211.4	213.3	213.7	207.9
HONG KONG	2141.8	2132.6	2157.1	2029.6
FINLAND	117.1	116.3	116.4	118.1
ITALY	478.2	469.4	467.5	462.4
JAPAN	1482.8	1482.8	1475.6	1420.5
NETHERLANDS	281.4	280.0	277.2	267.5
NEW ZEAL	90.4	91.9	91.7	86.6
NORWAY	637.3	642.8	638.4	576.8
SINGAPORE	644.1	640.7	639.9	604.8
SPAIN	267.0	265.1	264.1	262.0
SWEDEN	1115.0	1118.9	1112.5	1076.4
SWITZ	179.7	179.6	178.4	172.9
U.K.	569.1	566.5	563.4	546.1
U.S.A.	262.0	261.6	261.0	256.1
WORLD	503.0	506.6	505.9	494.4
E.A.F.E.	973.1	984.3	983.2	959.4

ADMAN

AMMAN		OPMG	CLSG		
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY				JOR LEASING CORP.	
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.				JOR LIN BRICK	
ARAB BANK				JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50 0.50
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER				JOR NATIONAL BANK	
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41		JOR PAPER CARDBRIG	3.60 3.50
ARAB INSURANCE	1.05	1.00		JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.70 3.70
ARAB INT.-INV/TRAD.				JOR PIPES MANUFACT	
ARAB INT.-UNION INS	1.21	1.25		JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.90 1.90
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.60	0.63		JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25 4.40
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.50	2.45		JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	
ARAB PAPER CON/TRD				JOR SECURITY CORP.	
ARAB PHARMA.MANF.	2.34	2.33		JOR SELPHO CHEM.	
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75		JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---		JOR WORSTED MLL	5.00 5.00
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65		JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.94 0.91
BANK OF JORDAN				JOR. PETROLIUM REF	
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95		JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45 5.45
CATCO ARABIAN BANK	30.00	30.00		JOR. INV.FIN.CORP	
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25		JORDAN GULF REAL	
DAR AL-SAB PRESS				JORDAN DAIRY	
DAR AL-DABA DY/INT.				JORDAN GULF BANK	
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.				JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94 0.95
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR				JORDAN INSURANCE	13.85 13.90
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60	4.60		JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63		JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.34	1.30		JORDAN LAMINATE	2.15 2.15
GENERAL MINING.	1.45	1.45		LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74 0.71
HIMEN MINERALS	0.75	0.75		NACH/EMI/RENT/MAIN	0.78 0.77
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44		INDUSTRIES	0.69 0.73
IND./MATCH JEMCO				MIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.80 0.80
INDSTRI DEVLPT BNK	1.62	1.62		MIDDEL EAST INS	
INDUSTRI/COMM/AGR.				MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74 0.75
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75		MAT.-FIN.INVEST CO	
INTERN.COM/INV	0.13	0.13		MAT/CABEL/VIRIE/WF	
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.95	0.92		NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.38 1.38
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64		NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.46 0.45
ITERMED/PETRI/CH				NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	
J.-JOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80		NATIONAL STEEL	
J.-SALES-INS	1.26	1.29		ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50		PETRA BANK	
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.70	1.68		PETRA JOR.INS.	0.35 0.35
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05		PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.06 1.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER				RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	0.86 0.82
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22		REAL ESTATE INV.	
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY				SHIPPING LINE	
JOR HOTEL TOURISM				SPRING WEAVING	
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.				THE HOUSING BANK	1.90 1.90
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20		UNITED INSURANCE	1.25 1.20
				UNIVERSAL CHEM.IND	
				UNIVERSAL INS.	
				WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.86 0.85
				YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.35 1.31

Interest Rates

Following are the average KLD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	6-11/16	7-3/16
3 months	7-1/2	7-15/16
6 months	7-5/8	8-1/16
1 year	7-3/4	8-1/4

PHILIPPINES MAKATT

PHILIPPINES MAKATI				
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SECTOR				
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	
AC-A	13.00	12.25	13.00	
ANS	2.85	2.90	2.85	
GLO	32.50	33.00	33.00	
PLDT	250.00	252.50	250.00	
KPSI-A	2.50	2.55	2.50	
KPSI-B	3.00	3.10		
SNC-A	149.00	150.00	148.00	
SNC-B	235.00	235.00	233.00	
MINING SECTOR				
APX-A	.024	.025	.025	
APX-B	.025	.026	.024	
AT-A	38.00	38.50	39.00	
BC-A	70.50			71.00
LC-A	.49			.50
LC-B	.50			.51
PX-A	.39			.40
PX-B	.39			.40
OIL SECTOR				
BP-A	.016			.017
BP-B	.016			.017
LRC-A	.004			.004
LRC-B	.0058			.0058
OPM-A	.038			.039
OPM-B	.04			.041
OV-A	.031			.032
OV-B	.032			.033

KIWAJI

BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	LOW	VOL	TRAD
-NATIONAL BANK	1.070	1.080	1.080	55000	
-GULF BANK	0.380	0.380	0.380	130000	
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.285	-----	-----	-----	
-AHLI BANK	0.360	-----	-----	-----	
-B.K.M.E	0.390	-----	-----	-----	
-K.R.E.S.	0.390	-----	-----	-----	
-BURGAN BANK	0.275	0.275	0.275	10000	
-K.F.HOUSE	0.520	0.530	0.530	15000	
INVESTMENT SECTOR					
-KWT INV. CO.	0.106	0.102	0.102	20000	
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	-----	-----	-----	
-K.I.I.C.	0.140	-----	-----	-----	
-COM.FACILITIES	0.480	-----	-----	-----	
-AHLIA INV.	0.000	-----	-----	-----	
-I.F.A.	0.096	-----	-----	-----	
-INV. PEARL KWT	0.098	-----	-----	-----	
INSURANCE SECTOR					
-KWT INSURANCE	0.720	-----	-----	-----	
-GULF INSURANCE	0.360	-----	-----	-----	
-AHLIA INS. CO.	0.620	-----	-----	-----	
-WARBA INS. CO.	0.400	-----	-----	-----	
REAL EST SECTOR					
-KWT R.EST. CO.	0.184	-----	-----	-----	
-UNI R.EST. CO.	0.076	0.076	0.076	40000	
-WAT R.EST. CO.	0.202	-----	-----	-----	
-SALHIAH R.E.	0.080	-----	-----	-----	
-KWT R.E.I.COM	0.000	-----	-----	-----	

KUWAIT, Jan. 17. (KUNA): Following are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today:

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.28416	0.28559
Sterling	0.50211	0.50607
D. mark	0.15351	0.15471
S. franc	0.17990	0.18138
F. franc	0.04501	0.04539
It. lira	0.000295	0.0002110
Ja. yen	0.002096	0.0022470
Bah. din.	0.75354	0.75794
UAE Dh.	0.07737	0.07780
S. riyal	0.07576	0.07619
Q. riyal	0.07803	0.07849
O. riyal	0.77888	0.74208

KUWAIT, Jan 17, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates changed little today amid high liquidity from an influx of some KD20 million in offshore funds

Dealers said the short dates were well offered with overnight given at two and three per cent and tomorrow-next offered as low as one per cent. Spot-next dealt at two per cent, unchanged from yesterday.

One-week business was also unchanged at four and five per cent while some 10-day funds were dealt at 4-1/2 per cent.

Quiet
The fixed dates were quiet with the one-month at seven 6-1/2 per cent for most of the day, for a time hitting seven, 6-3/4 per cent, and the two-month at 7-1/2, seven per cent.

Three-month deposits were put at eight, 7-1/2 per cent, six-month at eight, 7-5/8 per cent and one-year at eight, 7-1/2 per cent.

The dinar fell against the dollar, a trend since last Thursday, with the Central Bank fixing its dinar exchange rate at 0.28499/09 to the dollar and then at 0.28519/29 from yesterday's 0.28473/83. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.28535/45.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal deposit rates were steady to slightly firmer today in a moderately active market, with higher Eurodollar interest rates exerting upward pressure, dealers said.

Rates firmed by around 1/16 point in the fixed periods from yesterday after having dipped marginally earlier in the day. Traders in the offshore centre

Traders in the onshore centre of Bahrain said the Saudi government had been due to make payments during the day, but when they came they were less than expected, causing a mild shortage of liquidity.

Rates
One month rates rose to 9-3/8, 1/4 per cent from 9-5/16, 1/8 yesterday. Three months were little-changed at 9-1/2, 3/8 and six months and one-year 1/16 point firmer at 9-5/8, 1/2 and 9-13/16, 11/16.

Dollar deposit rates in London firmed slightly today because of a weak dollar and fears Wednesday's US trade figures might show a wider than expected deficit.

REFERENCES

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	NITSUB CP	1480	1500
AJINOMOTO	2960	2940	NITSUB EL	1110	1120
AKAI ELEC	705	695	NITSUB EST	2670	2680
AOKI	1120	1110	NITSUB HWY	1160	1180
ASARI GLS	2000	2040	NITSUB JCO	1080	1080
ASARI OPT	745	720	NITSUKOSHI	2270	2270
BANK TOKYO	1690	1680	NITSUMI EL	1000	1020
BRIDGESTON	1400	1420	NICHICON	1290	1300
CANON	1530	1550	NINON CHMT	1000	1020
CASIO COMP	1380	1360	NIKKO SEC	2180	2180
CHUGAI PHM	1650	1640	NIP ELEC	2000	1990
CITIZEN W	936	939	NIP KROKAN	986	995
D-ICHI CAN	3520	3500	NIP DII	1930	1970
DAI NIP IK	883	895	NIP TUSEN	921	921
DAI NIP PT	2650	2680	NIS MOTOR	1280	1280
DAI NIP SC	1000	990	HOMUR SEC	4100	4080
DAI NIP TO	881	920	CHIBA CO	975	960
DAIJCEL	284	289	OLYMPUS	1140	1130
DANBA H	1000	1000	PENTA OCM	1010	1010
DENSO SEC	2100	2080	PIONEER JMT	9410	9370
DENSO WFG	1180	1200	REINAM	2510	2550
EISAI	2150	2160	RICOH	1220	1210
ELITSA	1560	1560	SANIKYO	2410	2440
FUJI BANK	3800	3800	SANYO ELEC	780	797
FUJI PHOTO	3700	3720	SEIYO ST	2180	2190
FUJISAWA	1880	1870	SEKISUI PB	1900	1880
FUJITA CP	999	992	SHARP	1180	1170
HITACHI	1690	1680	SHISEIDO	1820	1770
NITATSU	2160	2170	SOEY	7390	7420
HONDA MOT	2370	2420	SUMITOMO	1410	1380
ISETAN	4550	4600	TAISEI	1260	1250
ITO YOKADO	1200	1200	TAISNO NRN	1990	1990
JAP SYN RU	16800	16900	TAKEDA CR	2720	2750
JAPAN AIR	775	765	TEIJJIN	849	855
JAPAN-INT	1830	1830	TKO NEW IX	448.95	457.58
KANSAI EL	5340	5480	TOKYO NRN	2280	2300
KAO SOAP	1780	1780	TOKYO HLEC	1500	1500
KAWASAKI S	941	966	TOKYO GAS	1340	1360
KAWASAKI K	995	1020	TOKYO POAR	7260	7420
KIRIN BREW	1990	1990	TORAY LMO	929	935
KOMATSU	982	999	TORAY LTD	1090	1090
KUBOTA LTD	929	930	TOYO	2070	2040
KYOCERA	5160	5110	TOYO KKOOGY	780	767
MAKITA EL	1600	1600	TOYOTA MOT	2630	2630
MARUI	3150	3150	YAMANA	1340	1350
MATSUBA EI	2600	2610	YAMAICHI	2110	2120
MITSUBISHI	0	2660	YAMAMOUCHI	4160	4170
NI JFEK	976	969	YAZAKI	1450	1450

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	3,279,485	25,346,722.5	968.14	UP 13.91
MINING	330,351,000	64,245,910	4687.51	UP 36.74
OILS	245,350,000	5,718,000	6.281	UP 0.046

SINGAPORE

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE LOWER IN THIN TRADE
 TOKYO, JAN 17, REUTER - SHARE PRICES FELL IN THIN TRADE ON
 PROFIT TAKING AFTER LAST WEEK'S STRING OF RECORD HIGHS AND ON
 RISE IN THE DOLLAR AND OIL PRICES OVERNIGHT, BROKERS SAID.
 "THEY HAD OVER 1,000 POINTS ON THE INDEX LAST WEEK, SO
 THAT IS THE RUSH," SAID ONE BROKER.
 "IT'S A TUESDAY AFTER A THREE-DAY WEEKEND AND THERE WAS
 NOT MUCH EXCITING NEWS OVER THE WEEKEND," HE SAID.
 THE NIKKEI INDEX LOST 70.86 POINTS, OR 0.23 PCT, TO
 11,227.52, AFTER RISING 154.93 POINTS TO A RECORD 31,298.38
 ON FRIDAY. THE MARKET WAS CLOSED FOR A ROUTINE HOLIDAY
 ON SATURDAY AND A NATIONAL HOLIDAY ON MONDAY.
 THE FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, WAS DOWN 8.65 POINTS AT
 448.95 AFTER AN 11.76-POINT RISE TO A RECORD CLOSE ON
 FRIDAY.
 RISES EDGED FALLS, BY SIX TO FIVE IN LIGHT TURNOVER OF 900
 MILLION SHARES, DOWN SHARPLY FROM FRIDAY'S 1.8 BILLION.
 INVESTORS, MAINLY INDIVIDUALS, BOUGHT A VARIETY OF LOW
 PRICED, SMALLER-SIZED ISSUES THAT ARE NOT AS HEAVILY WEIGHTED
 IN THE INDEX, A REASON THE INDEX FELL EVEN THOUGH ADVANCERS
 AND DECLINERS, TOP WINNERS WERE AUTO, ELECTRICAL,
 COMMUNICATIONS, ROLLING STOCK, RUBBER, TRADING HOUSE,
 MACHINERY, FISHERY, SHIPPING AND PRECISION INSTRUMENT SHARES.
 TOP LOSERS WERE PHARMACEUTICAL, OIL, SECURITIES HOUSE,
 BANK, GAS, SHIPBUILDING, PULP/PAPER, ELECTRIC POWER, RETAIL
 AND SOME MANUFACTURING STOCK.
 "INVESTORS ARE LOOKING AT U.S. FIGURES," SAID ONE BROKER.
 HOWEVER, HE SAID, "THE TRADE FIGURES AREN'T THAT IMPORTANT
 AT THE MOMENT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS WHAT THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF
 BUSH'S POLICY WILL BE--WHETHER IT WILL BE INFLATIONARY OR
 DEFLATIONARY." GEORGE BUSH WILL BE INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT
 THIS FRIDAY.
 THE U.S. NOVEMBER TRADE DEFICIT DUE ON WEDNESDAY IS
 EXPECTED AT ABOUT 11.3 BILLION DLS AGAINST 10.4 BILLION.

NAME	LAST PR	CL	FILITEC	656	KIAN JOO	1
------	---------	----	---------	-----	----------	---

ADFE A		G KENT	67	L. K. TAH	70	68.5
ADFE B		G LUMBER	101	N FLOUR	288	285
AJITMOTO		G TOWN	110	M GLASS		234
ANAL IND	102	25 G AND H	34	M UTD IND	173	172
ANAL PROP	24.5	25 GEND CORP	63.5	N UTD NFG	70	67
ANJOLA	142	143 SENTING	605	M'SHITA		595
BERJAYA	123	123 GOLF COCM		601 M'WATA		65.5
BOUSTEND	136	136 SBT	127	127 MAGNUM	234	234
CARLSBERG	550	555 GULA		28.5 MALEX IND		580
CEREBRO	322	N L IND.	199	203 META BOX		640
CCM	630	630 HARTMAN	102	103 NCTRO	610	620
CHEM IND	280	278 HAW PAR	322	326 MULPHATIND		30
CK TANG	358	364 HEXZA	68	69 MURATA		60
COLD STOR	378	380 HUME IND	180	181 MYRATA100		
CS, HLDGS		45 INNOVEST	98	99 MYRCON BHD		180
DIX	460	460 INS WOOD	40	41.5 NOL TREE	86.5	86
DNB BHD	119	119 JITAS		76 MR PREFF		494
PUTA CON	----	29 INTRACO	279	280 PMRI	88	87
DUTCHBARY	440	3 J ENGRE	262	264 ROTHMAN M	685	685
ELEC MAGN	169	172 JC ENT	106	109 ROXY ELEC	73	70
ESSO ORD	362	362 JONAN HDG	108	109 S PRESS	810	825
EYUAN S.		242 K G HLDGS	44	44.5 S PRESS F	378	386
F A C B	23	20 K KELLAS	220	220 S'WANG N	182	180
F B SHIP	263	246 KAMUNTING	91.5	92.5 SAMPANDA		131
FBN ORD	735	730 KE SANG	312	312 SANYO		95
FEB CABLE	----	67 KECK SENG	173	172 SEAL INC		100
FED FLOUR		420 KEPPEL	304	312 SIA 200	1340	1330
FIMA BHD		280 KG FLOUR		195 SUNSHINE		192

Singapore Stock Market Report

SINGAPORE STOCK PRICES END LOWER AT NOON
SINGAPORE, JAN 17, REUTER - SHARE PRICES ENDED THE MORNING
GENERALLY LOWER ON PROFIT-TAKING IN ACTIVE TRADING.
THE STRAITS TIMES INDUSTRIAL INDEX LOST 2.64 POINTS TO
1,105.27. FALLS LED GAINS BY 110 TO 52 WITH PRICE CHANGES.
MOSTLY NARROW. TURNOVER SLIPPED SLIGHTLY TO ABOUT 30.9 MLN
SHARES FROM 31.7 MLN AT MIDDAY ON MONDAY.
BROKERS SAID THE MARKET OPENED HIGHER ON FOLLOW-THROUGH
BUYING INTEREST, DESPITE WAL STREET'S LACKLUSTRE PERFORMANCE.
HOWEVER, IT BEGAN DRIFTING LOWER AFTER THE FIRST 30
MINUTES TRADE AS SOME CAUTIOUS OPERATORS EMERGED TO LIQUIDATE
THEIR POSITIONS TO TAKE PROFITS.

ZURICH

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLSE	WESTLE PS	1355	1390
BAER HDGS	11700	12100	OE BUERNR I	1225	1260
BALDISE PS	2350	2400	OE BUERNR H	388	400
BBC I A	2815	2840	OE BUERNR P	376	384
BK LEU I	3200	3200	ROCHE BABY	13575	13725
BK LEU N	2625	2650	ROCHE I	30000	32000
BK LEU PS	430	433	RUECKVER I	10325	10300
CFV	0	1140	RUECKVER N	7080	7110
CIB GEIG I	2880	2940	RUECKVER P	1650	1670
CIB GEIG N	2225	2285	RY TR BK	925	940
CIB GEIG P	2320	2380	S BNKGSGL I	3230	3275
CMW	1300	1300	S BNKGSGL N	643	647
CRED SUJ I	2805	2830	S BNKGSGL P	120.50	121.50
CRED SUJ N	543	551	S BNKGVN I	335	339
EG LAUFEN	1825	1825	S BNKGVN N	300.00	300.00
ELEKTROMAT	3040	3080	S BNKGVN P	297	299
ENS CHIEF I	4025	4175	SANDOZ I	9875	10200
GLOBUS I	7100	7100	SANDOZ N	7970	7875
GLOBUS N	6950	7150	SANDOZ PS	1710	1740
GLOBUS PS	1125	1125	SULZER N	5125	5225
JACOBS S I	7100	7175	SULZER PS	442	450
JACOBS S N	1390	1405	SVB	1800	1810
JACOBS S P	625	635	SWISSAIR	1030	1050
JELM I	2700	2700	SWISSAIR N	960	975
JELM PS	387	390	W THUR I	4380	4400
LANDIS N	1480	1505	W THUR N	3200	3225
LANDIS PS	0	190.00	W THUR PS	698	707
NERCK I	766	766	ZURICH I	4650	4660
			ZURICH N	3350	3375
			ZURICH PS	1730	1780

NEW YORK, Jan 17, (AP): Oil futures prices surged yesterday to their highest levels since November 1987, pumped up by

Momentum

"The main thing we've got going this market up is momentum. I'd have to list that as the first cause," said Peter Beutel, assistant director of the energy group at Elders Futures Inc.

The February contract for West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark grade of US crude oil, jumped 40 cents to settle at \$18.85 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Settled
The last time the near-month contract settled higher was Nov 20, 1987, amid hostilities in the Gulf in the Iran-Iraq war. It settled that day at \$18.93.

Although Gulf troubles no longer are an issue, the price of the near-month contract for West Texas Intermediate has soared 50 per cent since an intraday low of \$12.28 a barrel in Oct. 5.

One reason for the increase is speculation that some kind of production agreement may be reached at a meeting beginning Jan 26 in London between members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC countries, according to Gene Nowak, an analyst

Nevertheless, analysts said the latest surge seemed more the result of emotion than news.

Momentum

"The main thing we've got getting this market up is momentum. I'd have to list that as the first cause," said Peter Beutelschlag, assistant director of the energy group at Elders Futures Inc.

There's no underlying structural reason. There's no shortage," said John Lichtblau, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation.

Prices began rising in October on expectations that OPEC members would agree to cut production as a way of propping up prices. An agreement was reached in late November and took effect Jan. 1.

Analysts said OPEC's production has been 19 million barrels a day or slightly more, above its self-imposed quota of 18.5 million barrels but well below December's actual production.

The March contract for West Texas Intermediate rose 27 cents to \$17.95 a barrel; the April contract rose 21 cents to \$17.37 a barrel; and the May contract rose 14 cents to \$16.98 a barrel.

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Sterling steadies

Dollar dives and stocks mixed

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): A new year rally by the dollar and stock prices ran out of steam today in financial markets suddenly cautious about forthcoming US trade figures.

Oil prices surged with North Sea Brent crude about 30 cents a barrel higher at \$17.20 a barrel for February delivery. Gold rose to just below \$402 an ounce.

The Tokyo Stock Market sagged. The Nikkei average, which soared more than 1,000 points into record territory last week, fell 70.86 points or 0.23 per cent to 31,227.52 today.

Down

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chips, which almost reached its highest level since the crash of 87 yesterday, was little changed around 1,870 points at mid-morning.

The dollar was one pfennig and more than half a yen down around 1.8475 marks and 127.60 yen as investors waited to see the extent of the US November trade deficit which will be announced tomorrow.

Economists have predicted a deficit around \$11.3 billion up from \$10.4 billion in October.

Several dealers said it would take a really bad number to depress the dollar, which speculators have been buying strongly. To check inflation, US interest rates are being kept high and might rise further. That offers a good return on interest-bearing dollar assets.

Strong

"Profit taking before tomorrow's US trade figures pushed the dollar off yesterday's closing levels but sentiments remain strong for the US currency," a Japanese dealer in London said.

Sterling was steady around 3.27 marks supported by forecasts that British interest rates will also be kept high.

But the strength of the dollar and pound may be worrying the West German Bundesbank, since a weak mark means higher import costs and a risk of inflation in the German economy.

A rise in the Bundesbank discount rate, now 3.5 per cent,

would attract money back to the mark and the possibility of such a move also made for caution in dollar trading.

Higher

The West German Central Bank signalled to the money market that it may be ready to push interest rates modestly higher through its allocation of temporary liquidity aid today.

It was not clear if the discount rate might be put up when the Bundesbank council meets on Thursday.

West German shares slipped in thin and nervous dealings. French shares started mixed after a Bourse strike yesterday.

The Australian All-Ordinaries index lost 10.4 points to 1,501.6, its lowest since January 9. Hong Kong stocks bucked the trend to close at another post-crash high.

The benchmark 30-year US Treasury bond was trading in London at 100-29/32 per cent yielding 8.91 per cent.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 index slipped to 1868.4 points at 4 pm, down 3.4 points in the London Stock Exchange. The FT 30 index fell

3.3 points, standing at 1521.8 points.

An early decline on Wall Street contributed to the downward slide in share prices, while some of the recent speculative favourites fell victim to light profit-taking.

Gills were down one-eighth after yesterday's upturn on news of the retail sales slowdown.

Bid

Supermarkets were up on press reports of a possible bid for Gateway and the better-than-expected interim results from ASDA. Gateway rose 7p to 175p, ASDA gained 3p to 140p and William Low rose 7p to 256p.

Hilldown gained 6p to 252p on talk of the sale of its US interests and Ranks Hovis rose 6p to 378p on Goodman Feller stake speculation and comment on brands valuation. Capital Radio rose 9p to 618p on advertising revenue potential.

Profits

Profit-taking hit Wimpey, down 7p to 289p, Vsel, down 10p to 445p, Laing Properties, down 15p to 485p, and International

City, down 5p to 88p. Glaxo, worried by the strength of the pound, fell 11p to 1055p.

Hammerson ordinary shares fell 17p to 945p and a shares fell 32p to 879p on Radamco's revised bid plans, while profits reports pushed A.G. Barr down 15p to 663p. Plumb Holdings down 8p to 194p and Ross Consumer down 5p to 93p.

Harland Simon gained 29p to 403p on Maxwell stake speculation, while speculative activity pushed Brammer up 7p to 236p, Perry Group up 6p to 202p, Savoy A up 10p to 835p, ExCo of Louisiana up 7p to 107p, Local London up 11p to 485p, Patterson Zochonis up 6p to 297p and Securities Archives up 9p to 162p.

Trading news helped Hampton Industries gain 2p to 81p and Court Furnishers gain 2p to 159p. Eurotherm rose 5p to 583p and a successful drug launch pushed Amsterdam up 7p to 520p.

Amstrad lost 6p to 157p on broker downgradings, and Calor fell 4p to 373 over worries about the mild winter weather.

Ex-Tenneco employees set up new oil and gas company

HOUSTON, Jan 17, (AP): Former employees of Tenneco Inc. announced yesterday the formation of a new company to explore for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico.

The new company, Newfield Exploration Co., will be headquartered in Lafayette, Louisiana, and will be initially staffed with about 25 former employees of Tenneco Oil Exploration and Production, 20 of whom will be located in Lafayette.

Joe B. Foster, former executive vice-president of Houston-based Tenneco, will serve as chairman and chief executive officer.

"The concept is very simple," Foster said. "We will have management and employees who have worked together and established a superior track record in oil and gas exploration. We will focus on an area of the Gulf of Mexico which is gas prone, where the group has knowledge, and has had good success."

"We will find the operation so that it can conduct a data-intensive, team-oriented, technically strong exploration effort in the focus area to that of a major oil company. But we will operate with the cost structure, economics, incentives, and flexibility of an independent."

The new company will focus on a portion of offshore Louisiana, generally ranging from the Vermilion area eastward through the south Timbalier area in water depths of about 300 feet (92 metres).

Duncan Cook and Co., a Houston investment firm, is providing initial funding and investment advice for this new venture. The stock of the new company will not be traded publicly.

Investment

"We were attracted by the team, the timing, and the focus of this investment," said Charles W. Duncan Jr., former US secretary of energy and chairman of Duncan Cook and Co. "These

people have proven they can find oil and gas; they have participated in discoveries containing over one trillion cubic feet of gas in the past three years."

Foster said the first year's budget, including overhead, data acquisition and some leasing and/or drilling will be in the range of \$10 million.

Foster said the company's name "not only states our objective, to find new oil and gas fields, it also conveys the sense of freshness, stability and strength we intend to build in this company."

A.A. Wilkinson, vice-president and general manager of Tenneco's Eastern Gulf division, will become managing partner in Newfield's Lafayette office. Working with Wilkinson will be five geophysicists, four geologists, three geological engineers, four reservoir-production engineers, a landman, and an administrator. All were previously with Tenneco in Lafayette and all will be investors in and owners of the company.

Court orders review of Egyptians' takeover of Harrods store

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): A court today overturned a minister's ruling that a disputed takeover by three Egyptian brothers of Harrods, the London store where royal shops, need not go for scrutiny by Britain's monopolies watchdog.

A High Court order calling for a review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which could veto the deal, was a victory for entrepreneur Roland "Tiny" Rowland, 71, one of the most tenacious combatants in British business.

Overturned

His Lomro PLC conglomerate was a rival bidder for the House of Fraser which owns Harrods, the glittering department store on fashionable Knightsbridge.

On a Lomro plea, three High Court judges overturned a decision by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Lord Young, two months ago not to refer the 1985 purchase of the firm by the Egyptian Fayad Brothers for a monopolies review.

Lomro went to court alleging

that the purchase of the store chain and its Harrods flagship violated anti-trust rules.

Before 1985, Lomro had built a 29.9 per cent stake in House of Fraser. But a Lomro takeover was blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Rowland was furious and felt betrayed when, after he had sold his stake to the Fayeds, a secretive family with a taste for things British, the government allowed them to go ahead and take over the firm. He said it was unfair.

The court today also ordered Lord Young to reconsider a decision not to publish a government report on the takeover pending investigations into it by the serious fraud office.

Appeal

Young had until Sunday to order the Monopolies Commission review, although legal sources expected an immediate appeal by his Trade and Industry Department and by the House of Fraser.

"I am delighted," Rowland told reporters. "We will not give

up whatever happens."

Rowland has accused the Fayeds of contravening regulations by financing the takeover with money supplied in part by the Sultan of Brunei, one of the world's richest men.

The Sultan has denied playing any role at all.

Lord Justice Watkins said Lomro had "coveted" Harrods for years and would still like to own it.

"There is no love lost between Lomro and the Fayad Brothers," he said.

Obviously

"Rowland and his fellow directors obviously feel that the Fayeds are not their cup of tea, that they won their way into House of Fraser by stealth and are not capable of managing its affairs properly."

Rowland, once a porter at a London railway station, built Lomro up from a sleepy African mining company in the 1960s to a major international group. It has 800 subsidiaries in more than 40 countries and turnover worth more than \$4.5 billion.

South Africa faces another jolt

Battered gold bodes ill for economy

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 17, (Reuters): Battered by sanctions and a weaker gold price, South Africa faces another jolt as bullion slips toward the psychological \$400 an ounce mark.

"Gold is so important for this country. We're always anxious about the gold price level especially when it approaches \$400. It has very serious consequences," said Edward Osborn, chief economist of Nedbank, the country's third biggest bank.

Gold accounts for some 45 per cent of export earnings and economists say a sustained \$10 price drop in the bullion price costs about \$200 million a year in lost revenue.

Trading

The metal was trading just below \$402 an ounce in Europe today compared with almost \$500 a year ago.

"The trouble with the gold price is that it's not something that's amenable to easy prediction and certainly not something the South African authorities can control," said Ronnie Bethlehem, chief economist at Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., one of the nation's major mining houses.

"It's the joker in the pack," he added.

The South African Reserve Bank, the central bank, never reveals what gold price it has budgeted for in setting monetary policy, but it is understood to take a conservative view.

Bullion analysts say if gold stays at current levels or drops again, the rand will weaken and the balance of payments surplus will shrink as gold exports bring in fewer dollars.

Surplus

South Africa needs to generate a surplus on its balance of payments—a rough measure of trade in goods and services—to make repayments on its estimated \$22-billion foreign debt.

It has had only one new foreign loan since international banks cut credit lines in 1985 amid anti-apartheid pressures.

Osborn said a dip in imports plus healthy exports in minerals other than gold had strengthened the balance of payments position in recent months.

"Everything in the garden is

rosy, except for the gold price," he said. "We're facing an enormous crunch in 1990-91. We've got to put money aside for those two years."

The government and the Reserve Bank could also be forced to take unpopular policy decisions to keep the economy on an even keel.

Affects

"If the gold price continues to decline or remains so low that it substantially affects South Africa's export earnings, we will have to take the necessary policy decisions," a senior Reserve Bank official said.

He did not rule out a further rise in interest rates to shore up the rand and compensate for increased state spending.

The Reserve Bank steeply increased its discount rates last year, prompting commercial banks to raise their prime lending rates five times, from 12.5 per cent to 18 per cent.

John Gessing, consolidated's

Bethlehem questioned whether the government would let interest rates rise further in a year which could see a general election.

offer's value

Closing Date: 12 noon, Tuesday, 21.2.1989.

Tender No. MEW/22/47/80/88/89

Tender's Internal No. Concerned Party: Ministry of Elec. & Water

Requirements: Supply and installation of equipment to increase alkalinity of distilled water for Doha Western Station (90 million imperial gallons per day) to be between 60-80th of a million as calcium carbonate.

Relevant Fee: KD.250/-

Initial Guarantee: 2-1/2 per cent of offer's value

Closing Date: 12 noon, Tuesday, 14.3.1989.

N.B.: A pre-tender meeting shall be held on Saturday, 18.2.1989 at 10 am at Main Ministry's Building.

Qualified Tenderers

1. Potluri Water Treatment

Supply Trdg. & Contg. Co.

2. Kuruppu Industries/GMBH

Adel Behbehani Gen. Trdg. Co.

3. Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. Ltd., IEL

4. Abdullah Al Sayed Hashim Al Charafallah Co.

5. Sumitomo Heavy Industries

Al Ghazali International

6. Preussag Aktiengesellschaft

Ali Al Ghanim Est.

7. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

Al Thumaili Trdg. Co.

8. Sasaki Engineering Ltd.

(To be continued)

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\$5.40 billion oil projects being built in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Jan 17, (OPEC-NA): The Iraqi State Oil Company for Oil Projects (SCOP) is currently engaged in implementing projects throughout the country at a cost of nearly \$5.40 billion.

According to the English-language daily 'Baghdad Observer' on Sunday, the projects implemented by the company so far include gas processing units, oilfield development, oil transportation schemes, as well as the second stage of a strategic pipeline linking Iraq's northern and southern oilfields.

About 39 different oil projects have been executed by the company through the direct implementation method which involves some of the oil ministry's affiliated oil companies.

Pipelines

The projects, estimated at about \$750 million include the laying of 300,000 km of 10 to 24 inch pipelines in various parts of the country for transportation of gas, oil derivatives and crude.

Some 200 oil storage facilities with an overall capacity of two million cu. metres have also been set up in Beiji, Kirkuk, Baghdad, Basra, Kut and Nasirya.

The company, an affiliate of the Iraqi oil ministry, is also responsible for designing and executing oil installations.

During 1988, the company's design division was responsible for the preparation of tender documents for the development of the north Rumaila project, the central oil refinery, the Luhais oil-field and all projects executed directly by Iraqi firms.

Computers

Meanwhile, SCOP is planning to fully computerise its design division. When the system is completed in the second half of 1989, it will become possible to draw up highly sophisticated plans and carry out complicated technical calculations.

In accordance with the new system, personal computers will be introduced so that draftsmen no longer have to do their work manually.

Nissan's exports drop

Toyota announces record production

TOKYO, Jan 17, (AP): Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, today reported record highs for production and sales in Japan last year, while No. 2 Nissan Motor Co. said overall production fell slightly and exports dropped by more than 11 per cent.

Toyota said its 1988 production totalled a record 4.24 million vehicles, up from the previous record of some four million in 1986.

Overseas production, which rose 27 per cent to 244,210 autos last year, will increase 82 per cent to 450,000 this year, due to increased output the United States, Canada, the Philippines and Taiwan, it said.

Friction

Toyota's 1988 exports were 1.82 million vehicles, up 2.5 per cent, including 1.23 million passenger cars, up 3.3 per cent. But exports are expected to fall two per cent this year to 1.78 million. Toyota's best year for exports was 1985, with 1.98 million vehicles.

Exports to the United States this year are expected to stay at their 1988 level of 859,000 because of last week's announcement that Japanese automak-

ers will continue to limit exports to that country in efforts to reduce trade friction.

Toyota production in the United States totalled 74,072 vehicles in 1988 and is expected to be 170,000-200,000 cars this year.

Toyota's domestic sales in 1988 hit a record high of 2.12 million vehicles, giving it 31.5 per cent of the domestic market, based on vehicle registrations.

Nissan had a 17.3 per cent share while Mitsubishi Motors had 9.3 per cent, Honda Motor Co. 9.1 per cent and Mazda Motor Co. six per cent, registration statistics showed.

Nissan reported total 1988 vehicle production of 2.71 million, down 0.1 per cent from 1987.

Domestic sales and overseas production grew, however, with domestic sales rising 13.5 per cent to 1.16 million. Overseas production was 549,016, up 11.9 per cent, and is expected to grow to a record high of 632,000 in 1989, up 15 per cent.

Nissan production in the United States fell 6.5 per cent to 206,000 autos in 1988, but is expected to grow 18.4 per cent to 244,000 this year.

But overall exports fell 11.2

per cent to 1.04 million, while exports to the United States plunged 36.5 per cent to 348,000. Nissan did not reveal a target for exports to the United States this year, but said they were certain to rise with the introduction of several new models to the US market this year.

Exports

Overall exports are expected to grow by three per cent this year, reaching 1.08 million vehicles.

Mazda produced 1.22 million cars, up 1.8 per cent, the firm also reported today. Mazda sold 408,000 cars in Japan, up 13 per cent, and exported 820,000, down 0.6 per cent. This year, Mazda expects to produce 1.22 million again, and increase domestic sales 10.3 per cent to 450,000 while exports are expected to drop a further 1.2 per cent to 810,000.

Honda said last week it would sell more than 900,000 cars in North America this year, including more than 800,000 in the United States. It will produce 360,000 cars at its facilities in the United States, down from 366,000 in 1988, but increase production in Canada from 50,000 to 80,000.

Foreign assets soar

Local banks' total budget on the rise

THE local banks' total budget of the third quarter of 1988 estimated KD215 million, revealing an increase of 1.7 per cent in comparison to the previous quarter, according to a quarterly bulletin issued by Kuwait's Central Bank.

Credits

It added that the budget of the local banks totalled, during the said period, to KD 12,964 million. The bulletin said that the increase of banks' foreign assets totalled KD208 million, while the banking facilities given to residents had totalled KD68 million. Local banks' other assets witnessed a retreat estimated KD61 millions.

Meanwhile, the foreign debts totalled KD144 million and

credits were KD88 million, while shareholders' dividends estimated KD18 million and the drop in the private sector deposits totalled KD35 million.

The bulletin disclosed that about 82 per cent of budget hikes can be attributed to the tangible increase in banking facilities which had been given by the banks to commercial, construction, industry and real estate sectors.

Increase

It added that the total quantity of liquidity in the market during the same period totalled KD4798 million with a slight retreat estimating KD23 million vice versa to the previous quarter.

It said that such a drop was as a

result of high interest rates on the deposits in foreign currency.

It claimed that the Kuwaiti dinar exchange rate had dropped against the dollar during the third quarter of 1988, hinting that the drop was estimated at 3.3 per cent compared to a slight increase totalling 0.02 per cent during the previous quarter. It clarified that the dollar exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was ranging between 281.55 to 288.50.

The bulletin said that the Kuwaiti dinar exchange rate witnessed a tangible increase vice versa to the main foreign currency such as the Swiss franc, Japanese yen, Deutsche mark, French franc, Italian lira and sterling pound.

It is an excellent move, says bank chief

Nigeria opens industry to foreign ownership

LAGOS, Jan 17, (Reuters): Nigeria's military President Ibrahim Babangida has announced that wide areas of manufacturing industry were being opened to 100 per cent foreign ownership.

In a weekend speech reported in today's newspapers and on state radio, Babangida said the new policy was aimed at attracting investment and encouraging the private sector to take the lead in building up the economy.

"What accrued from past policies that involved government's huge investment which could neither yield revenue nor pay their way," he declared.

Responsible

The old policies were responsible for unemployment, underdevelopment and shortages of raw materials, he added.

Babangida announced a major change in the country's enterprises promotion decree, which restricted foreign investment in broad areas of Nigerian business to a 40 per cent stake.

A wide range of businesses were now open to unlimited foreign involvement, and a foreigner putting up 20 million naira (\$2.9 million) or more would be free to operate in restricted areas involving the small manufacturing, commercial and service sectors.

But the 40 per cent limit will remain in the banking, insurance, petroleum prospecting and mining industries.

This is a quite dramatic new development," said Rasheed Gbadamosi, chairman of the National Industrial Development Bank.

"Major manufacturing areas like petrochemicals, car manufacturing and computers are now wide open for foreign investment. It is an excellent move, particularly seen in conjunction with the government's privatisation plans."

Steady

The government's privatisation programme is due to kick off this month with the offer for sale of most of its 7.8 million shares in Flour Mills of Nigeria Ltd.

One fifth of its 60 per cent share in African petroleum should follow soon under the plan to totally privatise 67 companies and partially privatise a further 25 by the end of 1991.

Babangida said Nigeria Airways, the Nigerian Railways Corporation and the electrical power authority NEPA were among those which seemed to have lost sight of their potential, but there was no plan to live these off to private enterprise.

Meanwhile, Dr Idris Jazairy, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Develop-

ment (IFAD) who is in Lagos, said IFAD wanted to "join hands with the Nigerian government to help the needy smallholders and fishermen who have been hit by Nigeria's worsening economic situation caused by the steady fall in oil prices."

In December 1988, IFAD approved a \$19.70 million project for the development of fisheries in the remote coastal mangrove swamps of southern Nigeria to increase the earning power of 340,000 fishermen. An agreement is expected to be signed shortly.

An earlier IFAD project in the country signed in 1985, sought to raise Cassava production to benefit 300,000 smallholders in Anambra, Bendel, Benuue, Cross River, Imo, Ogun and Plateau states.

industrial index lost 3.09 to 1,104.42.

BOMBAY: Share prices mounted a late rally to close higher after lacklustre trading conditions undermined the market earlier in the day. Tata Steel firm 8.75 rupees to 1,153.75.

ZURICH: Swiss shares closed lower across the board in moderate trading as interest rate worries weighed on prices. The All-Share Swiss index fell 11.2 points to 964.5.

LONDON: Equities remained dull in late trade but the FTSE 100 was still only just shy of the next chart level of between the 1,870 to 1,895 level. AT 1540 GMT, the FTSE 100 was a net 4.6 points down on the day at 1,867.2.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 17, (Reuters): Last week's gains were erased as investors awaited Wednesday's announcement of December's Australian balance of payments figures. The All-Ordinaries index fell 10.4 to 1,501.6.

TOKYO: Prices fell in thin trade on profit-taking after last week's string of record highs and on overnight rises in the dollar and oil prices. The Nikkei index lost 70.86 to 31,227.52.

HONG KONG: Fresh buying from foreign investors pushed the Hang Seng index up 39.98 to a post-crash high of 2,896.65. One dealer reported lots of unsaturated demand for blue chips.

Free-spirited family thrives on controlled chaos

Bush to bring a new style to the White House

By Norman D. Sandler

WASHINGTON (UPI): In examining the personal side of the political transition set to take place on Jan 20, at least one basic observation is in order: Ronald Reagan talked about family values, George Bush practises them.

Over the last eight years, the first family at times has been grist for the tabloids and soap operas, torn by tension, stung by sniping and dogged by unwanted attention.

Kiss-and-tell memoirs by former aides have depicted the president as unengaged and the first lady as worrisome, protective and even ruthless, with a fine taste for fashion, a keen political antenna and a sharp sword.

However, all of that will be history at noon on Jan 20.

Bush has made clear his determination to be a take-charge president, with more of an eye for detail than Reagan. Barbara Bush will be a more outgoing First Lady than Nancy Reagan, who will use the White House as a bully pulpit to advance the fight against illiteracy just as Mrs Reagan used it to help spearhead the war against drug abuse.

Home

It has been said that George Bush has 5,000 close friends. And there is little doubt that he and his wife, Barbara, will bring a more relaxed, congenial atmosphere to the executive mansion, along with a free-spirited family — close-knit and competitive — that thrives on what son Marvin Bush describes as "controlled chaos."

The Bush home, on a jut of land along the coast of southern Maine, is filled with pictures of the family at work and play. And for the next four years, the White House — like the house in Kennebunkport — will be filled on frequent occasions with the



George Bush with an Easter bunny on the White House lawn last year.

sounds of children and informal entertaining.

Unlike Reagan, who ventured out in public only in controlled situations, Bush has a penchant for spontaneity. And while Nancy Reagan was portrayed as obsessed by style, Barbara Bush pokes self-deprecating fun at her silver hair or larger figure.

Also unlike the Reagans, the Bushes have made a wide range

of friends over the years. Their social circle extends beyond longtime friends to acquaintances from politics, business, the arts and even the media.

There is no reason to believe any of that will change. Look for the new president and first lady both to be out in public more than their predecessors and to invite a more diverse group of guests into the White House.

Their five children and 10 grandchildren will be frequent visitors, either to the White House, the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, or the family compound in Maine.

Bush has vowed to place his personal imprint on the White House by having a horseshoe pit installed on the South Lawn. At Camp David, Bush, an avid sportsman and outdoorsman,

and his family will be able to unwind in ways not possible at the White House with jogging, tennis and other activities at their fingertips.

Holidays

Holidays may see the Bushes bouncing over wind-whipped seas in his speedboat in Maine, shooting quail in Texas or bone-fishing in Florida. Notoriously energetic, the Bushes will be president and first lady on the go.

Not surprisingly, the Bushes have confessed to some trepidation about moving into the White House after eight years or relative freedom and low-profile living in the more comfortable surroundings of the vice-president's official residence, located on the spacious wooded grounds of the US Naval Observatory along Embassy Row in northwest Washington.

Though the fulfillment of an ambition that dates back a decade or more, the White House, despite the perks of power, will subject them to the confinement and lack of privacy they have been able to avoid over the last eight years.

Security will be tighter and their movements more closely watched and controlled. Mrs Bush has expressed her reluctance at having to trade the spacious grounds of the Naval Observatory for the fish bowl environment of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

However, she need not despair.

Marilyn Quayle has invited her to return to the wooded grounds whenever she likes to walk her dog, Millie, on the 1.25-mile (km) path that runs along the perimeter of the grounds. And as president, Bush too will motorcade back to their residence of the last eight years on a regular basis — to jog and escape the pressures of the Oval Office in well-guarded surroundings out of public sight.

'Angel of Death' shocks Germany

By Anton Katz

HOSPITAL staff called nurse Michaela Roeder the 'Angel of Death' after 17 of her elderly patients died mysteriously.

They did not realise she was a competent nurse until she was ordered to help victims just to prove her power over them, a court was told last week.

She acted as 'mistress over life and death' for two terrifying years at St Antonius Hospital in the small town of Wuppertal, West Germany, the court heard.

Prosecutors claim she gave one patient a deadly overdose simply because she wanted to watch West Germany play Italy at soccer on TV.

"This is a small job, I'll fix it," she is alleged to have told a witness. The woman was dead by the time of the kick-off.

The horrifying case is now unfolding at the start of the big-

gest mass murder trial in West German history, apart from those of Nazi war criminals.

There have been only two other similar cases in the world — in America and Norway.

Miss Roeder, a 36-year-old spinster, has admitted giving 17 patients a lethal overdose into diagnosing heart failure.

But she denies murdering the 17 patients, aged between 53 and 94. She confesses only to the 'mercy killing' of 10 of them, claiming they did not have long to live and that she did it to spare them pain.

Shocked

She is alleged to have told a reporter: "I could not see them suffer, but now I feel guilty."

The case has shocked Germans who flocked to the first day of her trial, which is expected to last until mid-March.

State prosecutor Karl-Hermann Majorowski told the court

in Wuppertal that Roeder had given the killer injections "to assert and satisfy her feeling of superiority."

And he claimed that she even told some of her victims before-hand that they were about to die.

"The accused possesses a fitness over life and death," he said. "We are dealing here with cold-blooded murder." All 17 patients were in the hospital's intensive care unit and involved "considerable work" for the staff. But none was terminally ill and Roeder's real motive in killing them remained a mystery, the prosecutor.

Majorowski said Roeder first came under suspicion late in 1985 after staff noticed she gave unprescribed drugs to a patient who had just come out of surgery. She was suspended and arrested a month later.

The German magazine Der Spiegel wrote afterwards that her

colleagues hadn't called her Angel of Death "because they suspected foul play."

The little joke in this name was meant to help console her over her bad luck and these unfortunate coincidences, it added.

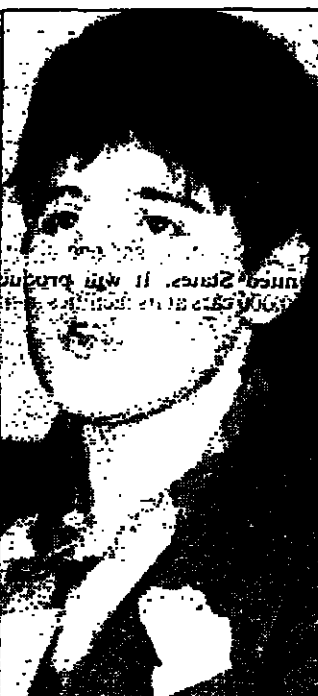
Roeder, wearing a grey trouser suit and with her hair cropped short sat looking cool and calm in the courtroom.

Class Clown

In an opening statement, she said she had "always enjoyed" helping the sick, and felt herself called to the profession after working in a hospital before leaving school in 1975.

But she admitted she had always been 'the class clown' at school.

Her reports from teachers constantly stated: "Michaela could do better if she would not play around so much."



Nurse Roeder: confessor to 'mercy killing' 10 of her patients

Chess prodigy at age twelve

Judit Polgar, the youngest of three outstandingly gifted chess-playing sisters seems in every other way, a lively merry-eyed schoolgirl. Yet she possesses a power at the chessboard which is awesome.

EXTRAORDINARY successes by the 12-year-old Hungarian chess prodigy, Judit Polgar, are both puzzling and slightly alarming.

How does a young girl manage to defeat grandmasters twice or three times her age, who have studied chess all their lives? This she did in winning the Foreign and Colonial Challengers Tournament at Hastings last week.

Judit, the youngest of three outstandingly gifted chess-playing sisters, seems in every other way a lively merry-eyed schoolgirl. Yet she possesses a power at the chessboard which is awesome.

Her games are not merely tours de force of attack. She shows an enviable maturity in every aspect of the game, which seems to be far more than the product of an intensive education in chess. She and her sisters were taught the game by their father from an early age.

Judit's talent at chess stems from the unusual system of education which her parents decided to give their children. They did not go to school in the ordinary way, though they do sit exams in Hungary each year. Laszlo Polgar decided instead,

after his first daughter Zsuzsa discovered chess pieces at the age of four and found playing with them exciting, not simply to teach her the game, but to make it the basis of her education. He might have brought his daughters up to be musicians, but the advantage of chess was that it cost so little.

As vital has been their mother, Klara, whose loving-kindness provided the essential emotional back-up for the three girls' dedication.

Not a player herself, Mrs Polgar remarks: "Can you imagine the relief it gives a mother when her child amuses herself quietly for hours on end?"

Now aged 19, Zsuzsa, is likely to be the first woman to become a grandmaster. Most important, she was the trail-blazer, who gave the family a cultural orientation towards chess to which Zsuzsa, now 14, and Judit responded.

Master Judit is the strongest player of her age in chess history. She is an international master and woman grandmaster. "It's not a question of whether she will become world champion," says Hastings tournament organiser Stuart Reuben, "but when."



Judit Polgar displays her skill at chess.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

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COMPETITION NO. 68

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Second Full House: KD 60
Third Full House: KD 40
Top Line: KD 25
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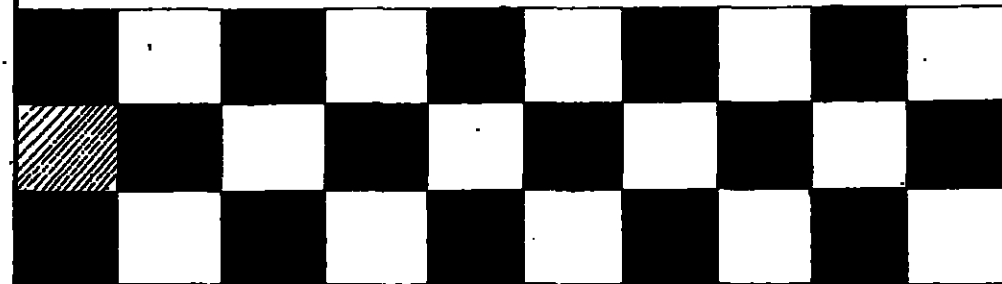
HOW TO PLAY

1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.
4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO

No. 68

ENTRY



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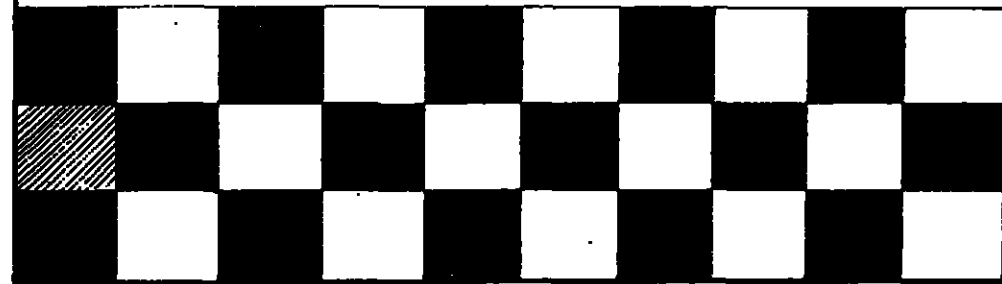
ADDRESS

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FREE BINGO

No. 68

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When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT.

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P.O. Box 2270,
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A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

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RUGBY

Fouroux to step down at end of season

AGEN, France, Jan. 17. (Reuters) Jacques Fouroux will step down as French Rugby Union coach at the end of this season, French Rugby Union president Albert Ferrasse said yesterday.

In an interview with Reuters, Ferrasse said former captain Daniel Dubroca would replace Fouroux for an interim period before handing over to current skipper Pierre Berbizier.

Fouroux has been heavily criticised for his concentration on forward power at the expense of the traditional French running game.

"Next year Daniel Dubroca will probably take over for an interim period in waiting for Pierre Berbizier to be ready to accept the post on a permanent basis," Ferrasse said.

Ferrasse criticised English officials for allowing Toulouse coach Pierre Villereux, an outspoken critic of Fouroux, to train the England squad in Portugal last week without asking permission from the French federation. "There is an unwritten tradition which has always been respected between us and the British," he said.

"It involves never contacting a player, referee or trainer of a federation without its agreement. Curiously, the English forgot to do so and I don't think that is a very good thing. I hope it will not happen again."

Ferrasse said rugby union would never be played at the Olympics because it was practically the last sport to remain amateur.

"Formerly at the Games, people used to compete for the flag," he said. "I am not sure if in Seoul every athlete was fighting just for his country. Money is elsewhere. That's why the rugby World Cup is a good thing because we control it."

"We keep out the money-makers thanks to the strict management imposed by the British. Like me, they are all attached to true amateurism."

Teague and Oti back for England

LONDON, Jan. 17. (Reuters) Exciting winger Chris Oti and number eight Mike Teague are back in the England Rugby Union team for their opening Five Nations Championship match against Scotland on February 4.

Oti returns for his third cap after recovering from a knee operation. He replaces Andrew Harrison, who played in the famous 28-19 win over Australia in November before he also had to have a knee operation.

Oti made his international debut against Scotland last March and in his first appearance at Twickenham made history with a hat-trick of tries against Ireland.

Teague, winning his fourth cap, last played for his country in New Zealand in 1985. He displaces Dave Egerton after some impressive performances at regional level.

Expect

Full back Jon Webb, who is also recovering from a knee operation, expects to prove his fitness over the next two weeks.

England: Jon Webb; Rory Underwood, Will Carling (captain), Simon Halliday, Chris Oti; Rob Andrew, Dewi Morris; Dean Richards, Mike Teague, Wade Dooley, Paul Ackford, Andy Robinson, Paul Rendall, Brian Moore, Jeff Probyn.

Evergreen rout KIFCO for title

EVERGREEN, inspired by an unbeaten century by skipper Razzaq, beat KIFCO Cricket Club by 75 runs in the final of the Pirelli Trophy to clinch the title at the Abdullah Salem Ground earlier this week.

Evergreen were given a good start by their openers Ejaz and Inam who put on 125 runs for the first wicket. Spinner Rifhat got the breakthrough for KIFCO in the 19th over when he bowled both Ejaz and Inam for 53 and 55 respectively.

Struck

This brought Razzaq and Dawood to the crease and both of them put on 150 runs for the 3rd wicket. Rifhat struck again when he had Dawood lbw for 58 with the score at 275.

Babar did not last long and could only score six runs before he was caught off Rifhat. Evergreen lost three more wickets before they reached 326 in their 45 allotted overs.

Razzaq remained not out on 118 which he scored with the help of two sixes and seven fours. Rifhat took four wickets for KIFCO while Ameen captured two.

WALSH TO RESIGN AS SAN FRANCISCO COACH

49ers' Rice may miss Super Bowl

MIAMI, Jan. 17. (AP) The thought of playing a Super Bowl without wide receiver Jerry Rice is enough to nauseate any San Francisco 49er fan. Or player. Or coach.

It's not something the National Football Conference champions will have to stomach on Sunday. Despite the ankle injury Rice suffered in practice yesterday, just ask any 49er—or any Cincinnati Bengal.

"If he can't walk, he'll play," Joe Montana said. The 49ers quarterback knows his all-pro receiver isn't about to let his first appearance in the US professional football championship hinge on a twinge six days before kickoff. "Believe me, he'll play. I'll drag him out there."

If he doesn't do the dragging, Bengals coach Sam Wyche might.

Best

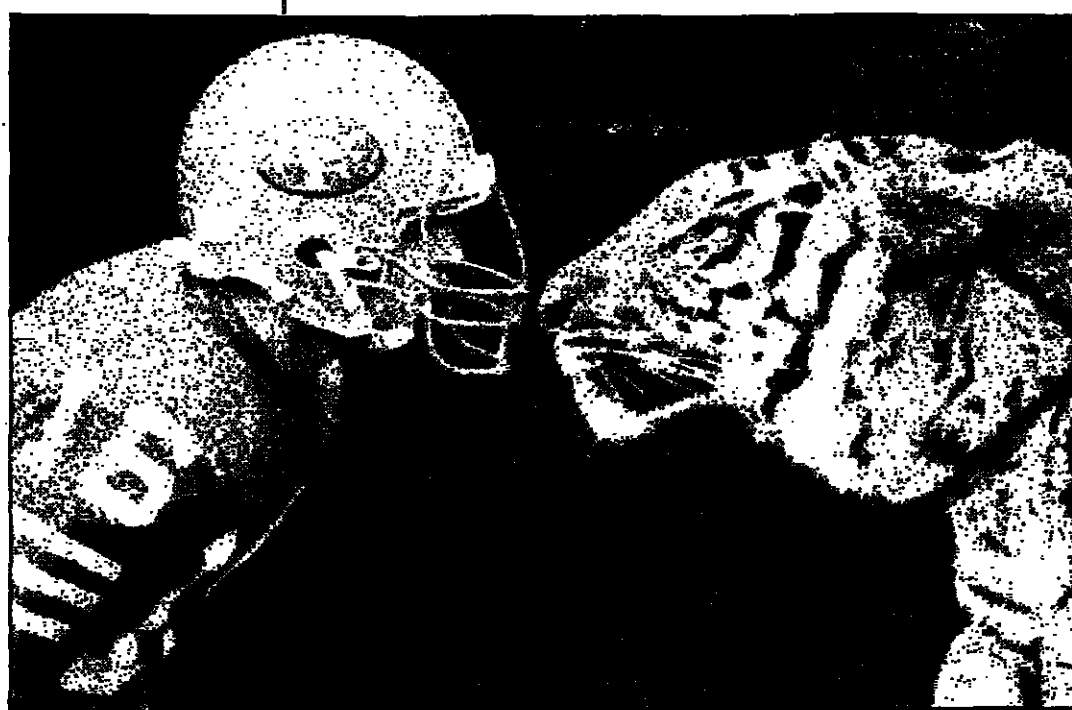
"This is a game where the two teams should be at full strength," Wyche said. "I hope he can play."

Rice is one of the best players they've got and one of the best players in the league. I hope all of them play, on both sides.

Rice left San Francisco's practice after injuring his right ankle and was listed as questionable for his rematch of the 1982 Super Bowl, San Francisco's first of two National Football League championships. In the minds of the medics, there might be a question.

As for Rice's teammates and opponents, forget it.

"He's the man you want to get the football to," Cincinnati pro bowl safety David Fulcher said of Rice, who when healthy is the



San Francisco Marine World trainer Pat Martin-Vogel dons quarterback Joe Montana's number as he poses for pictures while facing off with a 450 pound Bengal tiger. (Reuters wirephoto)

most dangerous receiver in the game.

When Rice's ankle finally healed earlier this season, the 49ers went on a four-game tear that boosted them to the NFC West title. In those four games, Rice averaged five receptions for 104 yards.

"He's our gamebreaker," Montana said. "That's no secret. And you go to your big-play guy in big games. That's not a secret either."

Bill Walsh worried that Rice's ankle injury might keep him

from practicing for the rest of the week.

"So much of our offense is related to Montana getting the ball to Rice and without that timing and that week of work, it reduces our effectiveness," the coach said.

For six weeks this season, Rice had trouble taking it to anybody. Because of the sprained ankle and the tendonitis that followed, he didn't have more than four receptions in any of those games and scored only once. Because San Francisco didn't have

another deep threat, the team slumped.

In the playoffs, with the ankle strong and the tendonitis gone, he has 10 catches, half of them for scores—his first postseason touchdowns.

"You can't take a Jerry Rice away from an offense," Fulcher said. "He's going to get his catches. I'm sure he'll be there Sunday to get his catches."

"You have to try to control him. He will make catches and make yardage. When he catches the football, somebody has to be

around him and give him something to remember."

In a week that rarely has any hard news, Rice already has given the gathering news media something to remember and concentrate on. The other players seemed to be relieved in facing queries about what Rice means to the 49ers rather than about what is the cosmic significance of this game.

"The only way you can become the best is to face the best and play better yourself," said 6-foot-3, 228-pound Fulcher, Cincinnati's most rugged and most improved defensive back. "I'm pretty sure everybody wants him to play. I can't think that he's hurt. I've got to think he will be there."

"And that we'll be there to take him on."

Feeling

While the 49ers wondered whether Rice would play in the Super Bowl, owner Edward DeBartolo Jr said in a separate interview he has a feeling Walsh will resign a few days after the game.

"He just wants to wait till after the season's over," DeBartolo said in an interview published in today's editions of the San Francisco Chronicle and the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

"He's told me that. Basically, he's told (the media), too. I really believe that Monday, probably, or maybe Tuesday, at the latest, he'll make an announcement."

DeBartolo put it at no better than 20 per cent the odds that Walsh would coach the 49ers again in 1989, the newspapers reported.

Canada calls for no-notice drug tests

TORONTO, Jan. 17. (Reuters) Nations which hope to stamp out drug use in amateur sport should adopt the system of testing without notice that exists in Sweden, a top Canadian government sport official said yesterday.

Abby Hoffman, director general of Sport Canada, which administers government money for amateur sport, told an inquiry into doping practices that an effective anti-doping policy must include testing of athletes both in and out of competition, but, more importantly, must involve testing without

Expect

Only with a programme where an athlete is tested with no prior notice can amateur sport bodies expect to catch cheaters using performance-enhancing drugs, she testified.

"In Sweden 85 per cent of doping control tests are done out of competition with little or no notice. The testing is done by what are referred to as 'flying squads'—individuals who travel around and administer tests at training locales," Hoffman said.

"They simply appear and have a list of those (Swedish) athletes they intend to test and administer



Ben Johnson

the test without letting the athlete out of their sight."

"This type of no-notice testing must be part of a comprehensive anti-doping programme," Hoffman told the inquiry on its fourth day of hearings.

The royal commission of inquiry was ordered by the Canadian government on October 28

after Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was stripped of his 100-metre gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in September. Johnson was also banned from competition for two years after his Olympic doping test indicated traces of the banned anabolic steroid, stanozolol.

Hoffman told the inquiry that Sport Canada put a national anti-doping programme in place in 1983, several months after two Canadian weightlifters failed their Pan American Games doping tests. She conceded, however, there were shortcomings in the programme's effectiveness.

Limiting testing only to competitions means an athlete would be able to take precautions to clear his system of banned substances, she said. Expanding testing to include training camps is somewhat more effective, but an athlete can still take measures beforehand to avoid a positive test.

The Canadian Olympic Association and Canadian Track and Field Association both came under fire after the Johnson incident for their failure to test him prior to the Olympics. The CTFFA had announced in January 1988 it would begin out-

of-competition testing, but the programme is not yet in place.

Johnson was not tested at the Olympic trials in August 1988 even though he won the 100-metre event. He had been tested last in Canada in January, 1988.

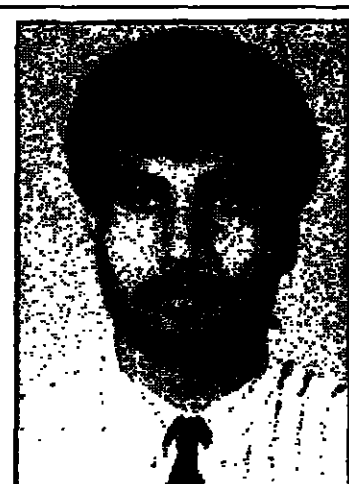
Four Canadian weightlifters were removed from the Olympic team in the days leading up to the games after their pre-Olympic doping tests indicated steroid use.

Positive

Hoffman said track and field athletes from 28 countries had tested positive for banned substances in the past two years. Since 1975 22 Canadian athletes have failed doping tests—13 in weightlifting, eight in track and field and one swimmer.

Dr Andrew Pipe, chairman of Canada's National Advisory Committee on drug use in amateur sport, told the inquiry that international testing procedures underrepresented the depth of the drug problem in amateur sport.

"Those who are forewarned (that testing is to take place) are forewarned," Pipe said. "Those who are abusing drugs take measures to assure they won't be detected."



Faisal: hit 49

CCK score easy win over NBK

CCK crushed NBK by nine wickets in a League match at the Ahmadi grounds earlier this week.

NBK batting first, after winning the toss, opened their innings through Shankar and Bashir. NBK found the going tough against some very accurate bowling and were restricted to 147 for six in their 30 overs.

Ashfaq was the top scorer with 33 while Rameez hit 29 and Hafiz 28.

For CCK, Zaheer was the most successful bowler with four wickets for 26 runs while Rifhat took two for 34.

Help

CCK, requiring less than five runs per over, opened their innings through Faisal and Sajid Raza. They found the going easy. Faisal hit 49 runs with the help of a six and four fours.

Even after the dismissal of Faisal, Sajid kept on hitting all the NBK bowlers to all parts of the ground. Zaheer, at the other end, tried to keep his wicket intact.

Sajid remained unbeaten on 71 and Zaheer batted patiently for his 17 runs as CCK went past the required target without losing any more wickets.

LOCAL CRICKET

Falcon and Morning Star win easily

FALCON beat Bright Star by 41 runs in a Gulf Bank Trophy match at the Ahmadi KOC grounds on Thursday. In the other match of the tournament, organised by the Unity Cricketers, Morning Star thrashed Al Mulla by six wickets.

Falcon, batting first, put on 150 runs for the loss of five wickets in 21 overs. Aijaz scored 29, Sajid 22, Imran 39, Amin 20 and Ayub 28 not out.

Bright Star in reply could only manage 109 for the loss of eight wickets. Asghar scored 37 and Javed 27. Rauf took three wickets for 28, Amin two for 27 and Tariq two for four.

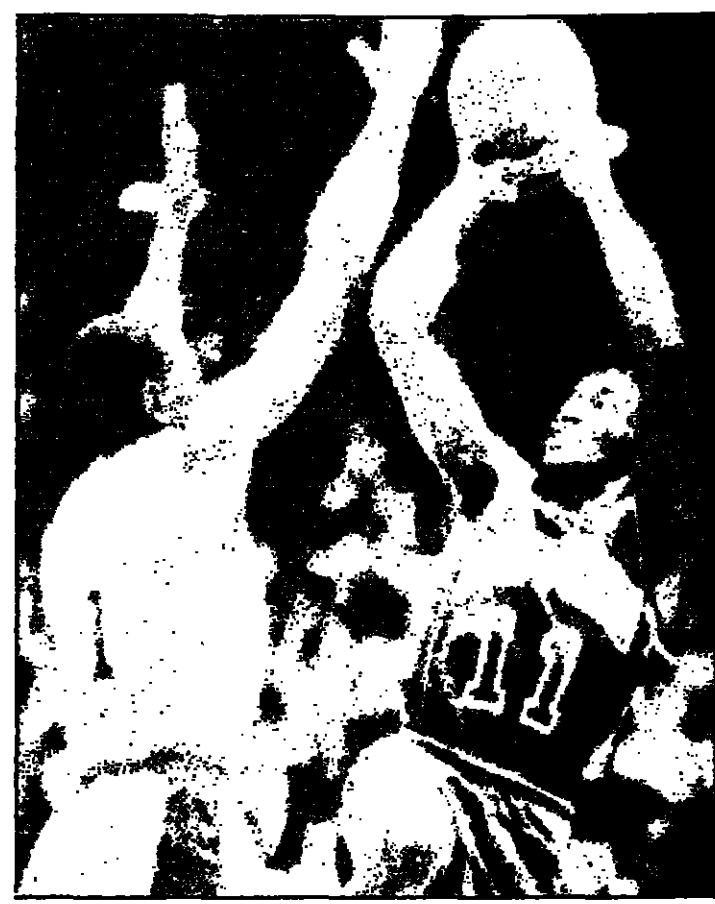
In the second match, Al Mulla scored 152 for five in 24 overs. Anjum took three wickets for 22 runs. Morning Star got the required runs for the loss of only four wickets. Pervaiz hit 39 and Ali 34.

Gulf Air Trophy

STARLITE will meet National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Cricket Club in the semifinals of Gulf Air Trophy at the Sabah Al Salem Area (NC) Ground on Friday.

Umpires will be one each, from Crown and Lucky Stars Club and the match will commence at 9.00 am.

In the afternoon, Lucky Stars will face Crown Cricket Club in a KCL League match starting at 1.10 pm.



Isiah Thomas (right) attempts a shot over a Celtics' guard.

Hornets beat 76ers to end losing streak

NEW YORK, Jan. 17. (AP) The Charlotte Hornets proved a few things yesterday.

The Hornets proved they could win on the road and they proved they could beat a quality team.

Kelly Tripucka scored 40 points, including nine in overtime, as Charlotte beat the Philadelphia 76ers 127-122 yesterday to snap an 11-game road losing streak.

It was the Hornets' 10th victory of the season and the first time they have beaten a team playing over .500 twice. On Dec 1, the Hornets beat the 76ers 109-107 in Charlotte.

"It's so important that we have some success for our effort. We've played hard all year and had some tough losses," Hornets coach Dick Harter said. "Kelly and Rex (Chapman) were magnificent."

A basket by Chapman, who scored 25 points, gave the Hornets the lead at 120-118 with 1:21 left in overtime. Tripucka and Tyrone Bogues scored baskets to make it 124-118 with 50 seconds remaining, putting the game out of reach.

In other National Basketball Association games yesterday, New York defeated San Antonio 116-106; Atlanta beat Washington 117-106; Cleveland routed Phoenix 126-110; Denver edged Sacramento 116-110; the Los Angeles Lakers ran past Houston 124-113; Detroit defeated Boston 96-87; and Golden State slammed Seattle 146-117.

Knicks 116, Spurs 106

Mark Jackson had 24 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his third career triple-double as New York won their 14th straight home game with a 116-106 victory over San Antonio.

Hawks 117, Bulls 106

Dominique Wilkins scored 28 points as Atlanta defeated Washington 117-106 and snapped a three-game losing streak.

Cavaliers 126, Suns 110

Mark Price scored 11 of his season-high 29 points in the third quarter as Cleveland turned back a Phoenix rally and beat the Suns 126-110.

Nuggets 116, Kings 110

Walter Davis scored four of his 27 points in a 30-second span late in the fourth quarter to lead Denver past Sacramento, ending the Nuggets' four-game losing streak.

Lakers 124, Rockets 113

Mychal Thompson came off the bench to score 13 points without missing a shot in the first half as the Lakers remained the only NBA team with a perfect home record this season.

Pistons 96, Celtics 87

Isiah Thomas scored six of his 16 points during a 13-3 fourth-quarter run, helping the Detroit Pistons to a 96-87 victory over the Boston Celtics.

Warriors 146, SuperSonics 117

Chris Mullin scored nine of his 31 points to spark a 26-10 run at the start of the third quarter, leading the undersized Golden State Warriors to a 146-117 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Nebiolo and Barra face judicial investigation

ROME, Jan. 17. (AP) Primo Nebiolo, the former president of the Italian Track Federation (FIDAL) and his closest aide, Luciano Barra, today were given formal notice that they are under investigation in connection with alleged irregularities in the management of Italy's athletic governing body.

Antonino Vinci, the Rome magistrate who issued the notices, is investigating allegations that FIDAL resorted to manipulations and abuses in negotiating contracts with commercial sponsors and with private companies entrusted with the construction of tracks and other facilities.

A spokesman for FIDAL confirmed that the notices were handed to Nebiolo and Barra, a former general secretary of FIDAL.

Court sources in Rome said the two track officials may face charges of falsifying public documents and using their positions for private advantage.

Nebiolo, 64, who heads the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF)—the governing body of world's athletics—resigned his post at FIDAL on Jan. 7, ending a 20-year presidency in the wake of a streak of scandals involving officials of the Italian federation.

Nebiolo claimed in recent interviews that he was the victim of political feuds. He's a known rival of Arrigo Gattai, the chairman of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) which prompted investigations into FIDAL's wrongdoings.

Skylark overcome Hilti

SKYLARK Cricket Club scored a 21-run victory over Hilti Cricket Club in a Gulf Cricket League match at the EPI ground earlier this week.

Skylark skipper Archie Menzies won the toss and elected to bat. Skylark put on 118 for the loss of eight wickets in the 23 allotted overs.

Captured

Victor D'Souza was the top scorer with 27 while Abubakar hit 20 and Archie Menzies 11. For Hilti the main wicket-taker was Shahji with three for 13 while Naveed captured two for 21 and Salim and Hozam took one each.

Hilti seemed to be cruising to victory when their opening batsmen put on 45 runs in the first eight overs but the tide turned against them when the Skylark bowlers found their line and length.

The Skylark bowlers were also helped by some tight fielding.

Fakrudin scored 35, Abuzza 21 and Fazel 11 but the other batsmen had no answer to the Skylark bowling and Hilti were all out for only 97.

Cameroon race attracts 350 athletes

YAOUNDE, Cameroon, Jan. 17. (AP) An international group of 350 athletes will race to the top of Cameroon's mist-enshrouded mountain of Char des Dieux (Chariot of the Gods) in late January, race officials said today.

The 4,070-metre (13,353 ft) mountain, at one end of a volcanic chain in the western part of this dual English and French-speaking country is the highest peak in West and Central Africa.

Among the competitors, 13 are from Britain, 11 from the United States, seven each from Switzerland and from France, two each from West Germany and Australia, and one each from Belgium and New Zealand.

The 29-kilometre (11-mile) race to the top of the peak is now in its 14th year. Jack Maitland of Britain set the record in 1988 for the fastest ascent in two hours, 25 minutes and 20 seconds.

Cameroon competitors took the laurels in 1986 and 1987 with Timothy Lekunze beating an international field.



Menezes: six for 13

Menezes was the bowler who destroyed the Hilti hopes of beating Skylark by taking six wickets for only 13 runs. One wicket was taken by Victor D'Souza while the other two batsmen were run out.

Hilti lost their last nine wickets for 26 runs, crumbling from 71 for one to 97 all out.



The Evergreen squad with other officials.

KIFCO, requiring over seven runs per over, opened their innings through Arshad Shams and Tariq. KIFCO suffered their first setback when Arshad was out for only five runs. Tariq enjoyed a lot of luck as he went on to score 86. He hit two sixes and four fours. He was dropped four times in his innings.

Shabbir scored 49, Nasir 24, Mansoor 23 and Maqsood 15 as KIFCO were all out for 251.

For Evergreen, Chris took three wickets for 58 runs in nine overs while Ejaz and Shahzad got two wickets each. Zagar and Shabbir clipped in with one scalp each.

The prizes were presented to

all the players by Gary Nicolson, the manager of Pirelli Construction Co.—the sponsors of the tournament.

Rifhat was named Best Bowler, Razzaq got the Best Batsman award, Shabbir was named Best Fielder and Ejaz Ahmed was given a special prize by Sheikh Arshad.

New team to make debut in Oman rally

DUBAI, Jan 17: The Mitsubishi Lancer team, which stormed to victory in the 1988 Marlboro Desert Challenge and BP 2000 Manufacturers' Trophy, has announced that its 1989 line-up of three Pajeros will be sponsored by Marlboro. The new team, called Marlboro Team Mitsubishi, will make its debut in Oman tomorrow.

Qatari star Abbas Al Mosawi will be number one driver in the long-wheel-base 250 bhp Pajero, which he drove to victory in the 1988 Challenge. Kuwaiti veteran Tarek Al Wazzan, runner-up in the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge is also featured in the line-up. 1986 Group A Middle East champion Mamdouh Khayat from Saudi Arabia will pilot the third vehicle.

"This is a very good team we have put together," said team manager Mike Otty of Dubai's Al Habtoor Motors. "Not only can we expect one of our drivers to win the championship, but we can also expect to be in with a significant opportunity of retaining the Manufacturers' Championship."

The first round of the 1989 series — the Marlboro/BP Trophy 2000 takes place in Oman this weekend, with a two day 813.54 kilometre event including 330.84 kilometres of 10 special stages. The event takes place on Thursday and Friday, but will be preceded by a "prologue" tomorrow, which will dictate the starting order of the top ten vehicles in the rally.

Strongest
"I am particularly pleased to have Tarek Al Wazzan join our team," said 27-year-old Al Mosawi. "He has been my strongest rival for the past two seasons now."

In all twenty teams are expected to take part in the event. The strongest opposition for the red and white Pajeros is expected to come from the hybrid Land Rover 110 of Abdullah Omar (UAE) and Michel Saleh (Lebanon) in a Range Rover. The 1989 Desert Challenge will comprise five rounds including Qatar for the first time with a BP 2000 sponsored event. The next round after Oman will be the BP 2000 Trophy, Bahrain on March 30/31.

Portsmouth dismiss Ball

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Manager Alan Ball was dismissed today by English Second Division soccer club Portsmouth after nearly five years in charge.

The club have lost five of their last six matches and dropped to 13th in the 24-strong division.

Ball played 72 times for his country and was a member of England's World Cup winning side of 1966. He is replaced by his deputy John Gregory.

Under Ball's control Portsmouth were promoted to the First Division in 1987 after nearly 30 years' absence only to be relegated the following season.

France favoured

PARIS, Jan 17, (Reuters): FIFA president Joao Havelange gave a strong hint today that France would start favourite to stage the 1998 World Cup soccer finals.

In an interview with the sports newspaper L'Equipe, the head of soccer's world governing body said France, which is bidding for the finals along with Brazil, Morocco and Switzerland, already had the necessary security, hotels, transport and communications.

WOODFORDE KNOCKS NOAH OUT OF AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Navratilova and Sabatini sail through

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 17, (AP): Martina Navratilova and Gabriela Sabatini scored speedy first-round victories today as they began their challenge to top-ranked Steffi Graf in the \$2.4 million Australian Open tennis championships.

Three-time Australian champion Navratilova crushed West German Andrea Betzner 6-0, 6-1, while Sabatini, playing in Australia for the first time, beat Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden by an identical score.

Struggled
"I think I am playing really well," said third-ranked Sabatini, who beat Graf twice last year. "I think I have a good chance to win a Grand Slam event this year."

Navratilova simply overpowered Betzner.

"I'm enjoying tennis more than I have for the past few years. My body isn't hurting any more," said the 32-year-old Czech native.

West German teenager Graf, winner of all four Grand Slam tournaments last year, began her Australian Open campaign yesterday with a victory over Australian Kerry-Anne Guse.

In first-round men's singles action today, second-seed Ivan Lendl, third-seed Boris Becker, fourth-seed Stefan Edberg and seventh-seed John McEnroe all advanced to the next round.

Mark Woodforde emerged victorious from a four-hour centre court battle with eighth seed Yannick Noah of France in the last match of the day and the best of the championship so far.



Becker hits a forehand while on the run. (Reuters wirephoto)

Woodforde won 6-4, 6-7, 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 in a match full of Noah pyrotechnics and superbly crafted rallies which finished under lights at 1.30 am.

Noah beat Roger Smith of the Bahamas in last year's first round in five sets, the last going to 16-10, but he could not repeat his Houdini trick this year.

Two seeded US women fell today — seventh-seeded Barbara Potter and ninth-seeded Lori McNeil.

Powerful New Zealand left-

hander Belinda Cordwell beat Potter 6-3, 6-3, while Japanese player Yuki Koizumi, 30, beat McNeil 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Koizumi, ranked 202 in the world to McNeil's 13th and playing in only the second Grand Slam tournament of her career, coached for 10 years before joining the international circuit last year.

Lendl, who never has won an Australian Open title, outclassed West German Alexander Mronz, 6-0, 6-1, 6-3, while two-time



Lendl hits a backhand drive against Mronz. (Reuters wirephoto)

champion Edberg downed big-serving Roger Smith of the Bahamas 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Becker eased past New Zealander Steve Guy, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, while local favourite Pat Cash, another former Wimbledon champion, also won.

Cash, the 13th seed, beat fellow Australian Brett Custer, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

"That was my first match for four weeks and I expected it to be a lot tougher," Becker said. "I

expected to be a lot more nervous than I was."

McEnroe beat former West German No. 1 Michael Westphal, 6-4, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2, after surviving a mid-match crisis.

"I felt I was hitting the ball well," McEnroe said. "My concentration slipped a little in the second set, but I got it back. I feel good, reasonably fit and the fact that I'm here is the main thing for me. The important thing is to win some matches."

McEnroe is the top US seed in

the event, which is played on synthetic rubberised rebound ace courts at the National Tennis Centre.

Lendl was too strong and consistent for Mronz, who is ranked 276th in the world and only made it past the second round in one tournament last year.

"I was very happy with my game," he said. "It's good to get the first one over with."

Matches on outside courts were delayed by rain early today, but Lendl, Sabatini, McEnroe and Cash played their matches indoors under the retractable centre-court roof.

In other men's first-round action, 12th-seeded Swede Mikael Pernfors trounced Frenchman Guillaume Raoux, 6-0, 6-4, 6-1; 15th-seed John Fitzgerald progressed with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over fellow Australian Shane Barr, while two-time titlist Johan Kriek of the United States downed Australian Peter Carter, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Victor
Other women's seeds to win included fourth-seed Pam Shriver, a 6-4, 6-1 victor over Australian Rachel McQuillan, and fifth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, who ousted New Zealander Julie Richardson, 7-5, 6-0.

Eighth-seeded West German Claudia Kohde-Kilsch struggled past Swiss player Celine Cohen, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Two-time US college champion Patty Fendick beat fellow American Halle Cioffi, while 15th-seeded Australian Hana Mandlikova defeated Clare Wood of Britain, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Nomads overwhelm UAE teams

KUWAIT (KMMC) Nomads hosted two teams from the United Arab Emirates over the weekend and emerged victorious from clashes against both these teams.

In Friday's first game, the 2nd XV, excellently led by Dave Sanderson, played Al Ain in a cup quarterfinal. Kuwait has already lost the away friendly and were obviously determined to make amends.

Defence
From the very start the pack put Al Ain under pressure, with hooker Ken Best taking several scrums against the head. After only 8 minutes a fine handling movement was well finished by fullback Whitton. Kuwait maintained the pressure and with twenty minutes gone Ball drove over for a try. His tackling and aggressive running were impressive throughout the game.

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In the second half Al Ain managed some territorial gains, but stout defence by Ferrari and Hughes kept them at bay.

It was next the turn of winger Ashwood to go over in the corner to give Kuwait a twelve-nil lead. The Kuwait pack, with Gutteridge setting up some excellent ruck ball, certainly had the better of the exchanges. It was fitting therefore that one of the "donkeys," Bill Butterly, should score after the best ball handling movement of the game. The late replacement Tyrell obliged with the boot to give the second fifteen an excellent 18-0 win.

In the 1st XV game, Kuwait Nomads hosted Abu Dhabi in a Merit Table fixture. The Abu Dhabi pack showed a lot of spirit and competed well throughout the game. Poor Slate was outstanding. However the Kuwait forwards managed to secure

good scrum ball which gave their undoubtedly talented backs a chance to shine.

Ellis looked superb on the break, and much credit must go to the excellent service of Hall and Adams. However on a number of occasions certain try scoring movements went begging, with Harvey actually dropping the ball after getting over the line. Thankfully other opportunities did arise and it was Ellis himself who broke through to open the scoring.

Action
An Abu Dhabi penalty brought the scores closer, Dubai referee, John Sutcliffe next awarded a penalty try to Kuwait after Hall was deliberately obstructed on his way to scoring. This should have been the signal for Abu Dhabi to fade, but a series of undisciplined offences kept them near the Kuwait try line and the

recently converted Abu Dhabi No. 8, Hopkins, drove over to score.

The Kuwait pack seemed to lose direction in the loose, but with Evans (ankle) and Hill (broken nose) out of action the forwards only contained two of last seasons winning Cup final pack.

Winger Bullus was on hand to score a good try to extend the lead and Harvey made up for his earlier mistake, thus not totally ruining his birthday. A penalty by Adams ensured the Kuwait Nomads a 21-7 win and retention of their unbeaten record.

This weekend, the first fifteen travel to Doha. Kuwait now have two weeks preparation before their cup semifinal against Jubail. Anyone wanting details of new training arrangements should phone the captain, Steve Hill on 5322073.

English officials accused of betraying South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, Jan 17, (AP): The country's two top cricket officials said today they were working to end apartheid and accused their English counterparts of betraying South Africa out of political expediency.

Joe Pamensky, president of the South African Cricket Union, and Ali Bacher, the union's executive director, issued a strongly worded statement regarding next week's meeting in London of the International Cricket Conference.

Allows
The ICC is expected to ban from international cricket any player who in the future competes or coaches in South Africa. One proposal calls for a lifetime ban, another for a four-year penalty. England now allows its crick-

eters to play and coach in South Africa while retaining eligibility for international tours. This policy has led to conflict with other cricket nations and last year prompted the cancellation of English tours to India and New Zealand.

To the dismay of Pamensky and Bacher, English officials have indicated they will accept some sort of action to sever the sport's links with South Africa.

The South Africans said they were denied both a formal hearing before the ICC and an informal meeting to discuss the issue. "South African cricket, at this most critical of meetings for all cricket, was in the dock and not even given a chance to be heard — either formally or informally," the South African statement said. "This is scandalous."

Pakistan blast Malaysia

LUCKNOW, India, Jan 17, (Agencies): Pakistan crushed Malaysia 5-1 today in their second match of the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup men's hockey tournament.

Pakistan led 2-0 at half-time through goals by Tahir Zaman and Qamar Ibrahim. The latter made it 3-0 for Pakistan in the 5th minute of the second half while Zahid Sharif and Irfan Ahmed got the other two goals.

Sivaibalan scored a consolation goal for Malaysia in the 12th minute of the second half.

In the other match played today, the Netherlands were held to a 1-1 draw by Spain.

Standings (tablets under played, won, drawn, lost, points):
Group A
Pakistan 2 2 0 0 4
Netherlands 2 1 1 0 3
Spain 2 0 1 1 1
Malaysia 2 0 0 2 0

Group B
India 2 1 1 0 3
Sri Lanka 2 0 2 0 2
Kenya 2 0 2 0 2
Poland 2 0 1 1 1

The 25-year-old native Austrian, who was World Cup champion in 1985 and 1986, survived a near fall in the first heat but rallied aggressively to dominate the race in a combined 2 minutes 31.84 minutes.

The big surprise, however, was the second place for Norway's Ole Christian Furuseth, 22, who joined the circuit only last season and finished in both heats ahead of Italian star Alberto Tomba, third. Furuseth's aggregate clocking was 2:32.49.

Helmuth Mayer of Austria took fourth place followed by Pirmin Zurbriggen, the defending World Cup champion of Switzerland who came back in spectacular fashion after placing 13th in the first run.

The two heats, with 46 and 48 gates respectively, went over hard-packed snow with patches of ice on the Kuonisbergli course near this Bernese Oberland resort. The drop was 375 metres.

For Girardelli, it was only the fourth giant slalom win since he started his World Cup career in

Girardelli wins giant slalom

ADELBODEN, Switzerland, Jan 17, (AP): Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli posted best times in both heats to win a giant slalom race and widen his overall lead in the World Cup standings.

The 25-year-old native Austrian, who was World Cup champion in 1985 and 1986, survived a near fall in the first heat but rallied aggressively to dominate the race in a combined 2 minutes 31.84 minutes.

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For Girardelli, it was only the fourth giant slalom win since he started his World Cup career in

1980. It raised his overall points total this season to 219, with Zurbriggen trailing him at 183 and Tomba who does not compete in downhill races, in third place, with 113 points.

Today's race was the third giant slalom of the season and

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ron Atkinson

BIRMINGHAM, England, Jan 17, (UPI): Briton Ron Atkinson was puzzled today by reports he had been fired as manager of Spanish soccer club Atletico Madrid, but admitted he would bet the rumours were true.

Dutch striker

AMSTERDAM, Jan 17, (Reuters): Sturk Willem van der Ark is to join Scottish Premier League Aberdeen from Dutch First Division club Willem II Tilburg in a record deal, it was announced today.

Japanese team

NICOSIA, Jan 17, (Reuters): Japan's national soccer team arrived in Tehran today to play the first international matches in Iran since FIFA lifted a ban imposed because of the Gulf war.

Pele Cup

SAO PAULO, Jan 17, (Reuters): West Germany and Italy played to a 1-1 draw (halftime 1-0) in a match for the world muncip for veteran soccer players (Pele Cup) at the Caninde stadium here last night.

Top athlete

LISBON, Portugal, Jan 17, (AP): Portuguese sports reporters yesterday voted Olympic women's marathon champion Rosa Mota as Portugal's athlete of 1988.

Title fight

LONDON, Jan 17, (AP): Britain's Duke McKenzie will defend his IBF flyweight championship against American Tony Deluca March 8. The fight at Royal Albert Hall in London will be McKenzie's first defence of the International Boxing Federation title he won last October.

1992 Games

BARCELONA, Spain, Jan 17, (AP): Organisers of the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympic Games expect to hold equestrian events in Spain despite a recent outbreak of a deadly horse disease in two southern provinces, an official close to the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee said yesterday.

US record

LONG BEACH, California, Jan 17, (UPI): Janet Evans won three gold medals at the Seoul Olympics, yesterday broke the US record for the 1,650-yard freestyle at a qualifying meet. Evans clocked 15:44.98 to snap a 6-year-old record set by Tiffany Cohen.

British soccer

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played yesterday: English Football Association (FA) Cup third round, second replay: Newcastle 0, Watford 0, after extra time (eventual winners home to Derby in the fourth round). Scottish FA Cup second round replay: Dumbarton 4, Elgin 0 (Dumbarton away to Celtic in the third round). Stenhousemuir 3, Cowdenbeath 2 (Stenhousemuir away to St Johnstone).

RESULTS of the Dumbell Bridge Tournament (15th week) played at the Kuwait International Hotel on Sunday:	
N/S	
1. Mr & Mrs Moussalli	
2. Dr Parikh & Simon	
3. Mukherjee & Inam Ali	
E/W	
1. Mrs Sagor & Merchant	
2. Tawil & Sabri	
3. Anzora & Samaha	

Pakistan name side for tour opener



Miandad: to miss first match

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 17, (Reuters): Pakistan's vice-captain Javed Miandad was among three players not included in the team announced to play a New Zealand Second XI selection at New Plymouth, tomorrow.

Captain Imran Khan said today that Miandad, leg-spinner Abdul Qadir and paceman Aaqib Javed were not considered for selection from the 16-man team for Pakistan's first match in New Zealand.

Miandad and Aaqib are injured, and Qadir is not expected in New Zealand until before the first Test in Dunedin starting on February 3.

The team includes Imran himself, left-arm paceman Wasim Akram, and top-order batsmen Mudassar Nazar, and Saleem Malik.

Imran said his side was concentrating on getting into the right frame of mind for three-day and Test matches after a diet of one-day games in their just completed Australian tour.

A number of players have been recovering from niggling injuries over the past four days while the rest have endured long, hard training sessions. Imran said.

Several members of Pakistan's opposition have not played first-class cricket and in fact the game will not have that status. It was added to the itinerary when Pakistan arrived early after failing to qualify for the World Cup series final in Australia.

The teams are:
Pakistan: Mudassar Nazar, Moin-ul-Atiq, Shoaib Mohammed, Saleem Malik, Aamer Malik, Ijaz Ahmed, Imran Khan (captain), Tauseef Ahmed, Saeed Anwar, Wasim Akram, Saleem Jaffer, Salim Yousuf 12th man.

Second XI selection (one to be 12th man): Grant Douglas, Graham Burnett, Derek Scott, Steve Brown, Kassem Ibadulla, Rodney Brown, Bill Fowler (captain), Ian Fisher, James Milne, Murphy Sua, Brian Barrett and Richard de Groen.



Richards to play for Glamorgan

LONDON, Jan 17, (Reuters): West Indies captain Viv Richards is to return to English county cricket with Glamorgan next season, the club said today.

Glamorgan chief administrator Philip Carling said Richards had already given a written commitment to join the county and was expected to sign an official contract this weekend in Australia where he is touring with West Indies.

But Carling said Richards, regarded by many as still the world's best batsman at the age of 36, was not expected to make his Glamorgan debut until their match against the Australian touring side in July.

Little
"First he wants to complete his Test commitments and take a little time off to shake off a nagging ankle injury," he said.

Richards previously played county cricket for Somerset but left the club in acrimonious circumstances after the 1986 season.

Carling said Richards would be on the same pay scale as Glamorgan's other senior players but would be sponsored by business interests.